

# Groton Daily Independent

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**The Oldest Computer  
Was Owned By Adam  
And Eve. It Was An  
Apple With Very Limited  
Memory. Just 1 Byte  
And Everything  
Crashed!**



## Sunday, June 30

- Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
  - 1 p.m.: Britton vs. Platte-Geddes
  - 5 p.m.: Groton vs. Crusaders
  - U12 All - Groton Tourney (See pairings on Page 8)
  - United Methodist: Worship at Conde at 8:30 a.m., at Groton at 10:30 a.m., coffee hour at 9:30 a.m.
  - Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion at 9 a.m.
  - Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
  - First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
  - Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
  - St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.
- July 1

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# 1440

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with Macron's centrist Together for the Republic coalition now trailing in third place (22%) after the left-wing New Popular Front (29%).

On July 7, leading candidates without an outright majority will advance to a second round of elections to determine the makeup of France's 577-member National Assembly. Macron has vowed to remain president until 2027 regardless of the results; however, if the National Rally places first on Sunday, Macron will appoint a prime minister from the party as part of a power-sharing system.

## France's Parliamentary Elections

French voters headed to the polls yesterday for the first round of parliamentary elections. Exit polls show the nationalist-populist National Rally in the lead with 33% of the vote as turnout approached 70%, the highest in 40 years.

French President Emmanuel Macron called snap elections last month when the National Rally defeated centrists in the European Union's parliamentary elections. Observers suggest that decision backfired,

with Macron's centrist Together for the Republic coalition now trailing in third place (22%) after the left-wing New Popular Front (29%).

## Beryl Barrels West

Hurricane Beryl strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane yesterday, becoming the earliest on record to reach Category 4 status in the Atlantic. The storm will pass directly over St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada, this morning.

The first hurricane of the season, Beryl rapidly picked up steam over the open ocean, intensifying from a tropical depression to a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher) in 42 hours. Meteorologists credited record warm ocean surface temperatures in the region with fueling the system. Beryl is expected to cross the Caribbean Sea midweek, potentially making landfall in Jamaica Wednesday before continuing on to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Hurricane season runs from June through November, but peaks in September—experts estimated this year to be particularly active, with between four and seven Category 3 storms or higher.

## Presidential Immunity

The Supreme Court is set to rule today on whether a president is immune from prosecution over official acts conducted while in the White House. The case stems from former President Donald Trump's challenge to four felony charges over alleged interference with the 2020 election.

Trump's legal team maintains current and former presidents must be impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate before facing criminal prosecution—an argument rejected by lower courts. Justices' questions during oral arguments in April suggest the court is unlikely to rule in favor of absolute immunity but may consider partial immunity.

The Supreme Court is also set to rule on three other cases today, a rare session in which the court has extended rulings past June. Pending decisions include whether states can limit content on social media sites and a case on credit card swipe fees.

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

"Inside Out 2" crosses \$1B at global box office, becoming the fastest animation film to break the \$1B mark in just 19 days after its release.

San Jose Sharks take Boston University's Macklin Celebrini with top pick in 2024 NHL Draft.

India tops South Africa to win T20 Cricket World Cup.

Simone Biles win's Team USA trials all-around competition to qualify for her third Olympics.

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone breaks her own world record in the 400-meter hurdles to win the Team USA track and field Olympic trials.

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### Science & Technology

NASA's Odyssey spacecraft completes 100,000 orbits around Mars, more than two decades after launching; agency releases snapshot of Olympus Mons, the solar system's largest volcano.

Gene silencing technology reduces misfolded proteins known as prions by 80% in mouse trials; approach may lead to new therapies for some neurodegenerative diseases.

Researchers identify brain regions associated with the sensation of feeling full; study finds new weight loss drugs like Wegovy and Zepbound act on the neurons.

### Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower Friday (S&P 500 -0.4%, Dow -0.1%, Nasdaq -0.7%) following release of data on inflation and consumer sentiment.

US federal judge rules cryptocurrency exchange Binance must face the majority of a lawsuit from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

DVD rental company Redbox files for bankruptcy after defaulting on loans and missing payroll for employees.

### Politics & World Affairs

President Joe Biden meets with family at Camp David amid Democratic supporters' concerns over the president's fitness to run in the 2024 election.

Iran's presidential race heads to a runoff election between reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian and hard-liner Saeed Jalili; voter turnout was 40%, lowest in the Islamic Republic's history.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announces cabinet, which includes the opposition party for the first time, following the election in May.

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Last week, we broke down the Minnesota Vikings' offensive line – a position that had recently been the team's weak spot but is now one of its strengths. This week, we break down the Vikings' defensive line – a position that has been historically great for the Vikings but is now one of the worst units in the league.

Before we get into the breakdown, it is important to note that Vikings' defensive coordinator Brian Flores was able to cover up this weakness (for the most part) in 2023 and will need to do so again this season. Last year, Flores' defense played 180 snaps without a single defensive lineman on the field, and 143 plays with only one (which combines for nearly a third of the total snaps for the Vikings' defense). Those numbers are unheard of. Unfortunately, it's relatively easy to gameplan against, so Flores will need to have another trick up his sleeve.

Harrison Phillips – The only decent player on the defensive line last year, Phillips played much of the season out of position. He was primarily deployed as the nose tackle, who is usually a massive mountain of a man who can hold the point of attack and absorb double teams. Phillips, while still a large human being, is better suited playing defensive end in the Vikings' 3-4 defense, where he would face fewer double teams and be able to focus on rushing the passer.

Jerry Tillery – Signed as a free agent this offseason, Tillery is a former 1st-round pick who has potential but hasn't been able to put it all together yet in his career. At this point, he has the highest ceiling among the defensive linemen, and the Vikings are hoping they can unlock it. Tillery spent 3.5 years in a Chargers uniform before spending the last 1.5 seasons with the Raiders. He's started 39 games over the past five seasons.

Jonathan Bullard – Entering his third season with the Vikings, Bullard is hoping that his 21 starts for the team will give him an edge over his fellow defensive linemen. He will likely be given the first crack at making the starting lineup, but he only has two sacks during his time in Minnesota and the Vikings are hoping to get more out of a starting-caliber player. Bullard is entering his ninth season and has played for the Bears, Cardinals, Seahawks, and Falcons.

Jonah Williams – Another free agent addition this year, Williams will be battling for a spot on the Vikings' roster. Luckily for him, aside from Phillips and perhaps Tillery, the rest of the defensive linemen on the roster are in the same boat. Williams spent the past three seasons with the Rams and started 22 games for them at defensive end.

James Lynch – He's listed here simply because the Vikings spent a fourth-round pick on him in 2020. Lynch has only started three games for the Vikings over the past three seasons and will need a strong showing in training camp if he wants to remain on the roster.

Levi Drake Rodriguez – Or simply LDR as the players and coaches like to call him, is a rookie seventh-round pick. He might start the season on the practice squad, but I wouldn't count him out to make the final 53-man roster heading into the season.

Jaquelin Roy – A fifth-round pick for the Vikings in 2023, Roy started one game for the Vikings in his rookie year.

Jalen Redmond – Entering his second season in the NFL, Redmond has yet to see the field because of injuries.

Tyler Manoa – An undrafted rookie free agent, Manoa's best shot to stick in the NFL is on a practice squad.

Taki Taimani – Another undrafted rookie free agent, Taimani is also hoping to land on a practice squad this season.

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## 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Don and Nancy Hein will celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on July 3, 2024. Greetings may be sent to 918 Arbor Lane #46, Aberdeen SD 57401.

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## Groton Jr Teeners 14U Looks To Continue Strong Play Against Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen

Groton Jr Teeners 14U have been playing well lately, going 6-4 in their last 10 games. They'll put that strong play to the test when they go up against Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen on Monday.

Last Time Out:

Groton Jr Teeners 14U beat Miller 5-1. Swenson drove in four runs as Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen beat Jamestown 13/14 16-12 at Fossum Field.

### Player Highlight:

Lincoln Shilhanek hits and pitches for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Shilhanek primarily plays second base on the field. Shilhanek has put together 17 quality at bats this season. Shilhanek has induced 17 groundballs on 28 balls in play this season.

### About Groton Jr Teeners 14U:

Groton Jr Teeners 14U has played well lately, going 6-4 in their last 10 games. They have a 12-9 record overall. Jordan Schwan's 1.474 OPS leads Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The outfielder has a 0.596 OBP and a 0.878 slugging percentage this season. Alex Abeln leads Groton Jr Teeners 14U with 21 and one-third innings pitched. The right-handed pitcher has a 3.28 ERA this season. Abeln leads Groton Jr Teeners 14U with 72 total fielding chances this season. Abeln's primary position is catcher.

### About Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen:

Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen has played well lately, going 9-1 in their last 10 games. They have a 13-4 record overall. Swenson's 1.556 OPS leads Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen. The third baseman has a 0.556 OBP and a 1.000 slugging percentage this season. Mason Arnott leads Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen with 21 and two-thirds innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 4.85 ERA this season. Colton Hanigan leads Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen with 51 total fielding chances this season. Hanigan's primary position is catcher.

## "What to do about Marijuana?"

There are so many questions. Is it safe? Does pot smoking lead to the use of hard drugs? What is the risk of pot smoking during pregnancy? Does marijuana have medical value in treating disease? Does smoking pot relieve the side effects of cancer treatment?

On each of these questions we have information – and lots of opinion. The reality is that on none of these questions do we really have clear cut answers. In spite of decades of experience there is still a serious shortage of reliable, scientifically valid research on the effects of marijuana on the human body.

This deficit has resulted primarily from two factors. First, marijuana has been classed by the government as a Schedule I drug, meaning that it does not have a legitimate medical use (same category as heroin and LSD). This means that it has not been readily – or legally - available to medical researchers who are interested in trying to answer these questions. Secondly, the pharmaceutical industry has not shown interest in trying to develop marijuana into a traditional prescription medication.

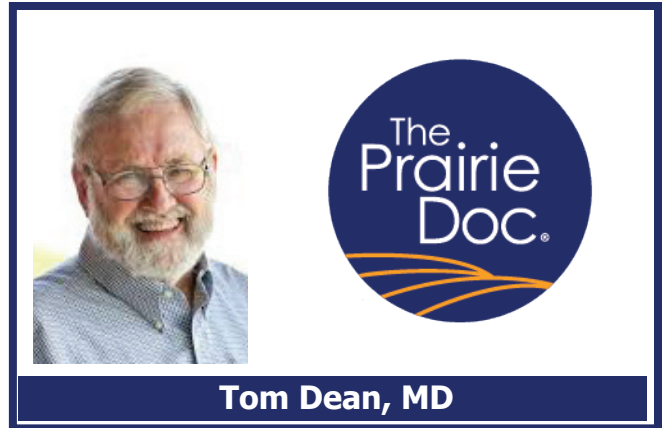
So what is the public to do, especially when the issue of "legalization" is on the ballot?

Regarding safety, the impression among the public has been that marijuana is relatively safe, safer than alcohol and tobacco. Today we are learning, however, that such impressions are largely unreliable. This is partly because the marijuana on the market today tends to be significantly more potent than what was previously available. Furthermore, studies are emerging which show that risks are greater than previously recognized. The American Heart Assn. recently published a survey showing marijuana use, especially prolonged use, may be associated with an increased risk of both heart disease and stroke. An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2023 showed that marijuana use during pregnancy, especially if continued throughout pregnancy, was associated with adverse outcomes.

What about "medical" marijuana? As a physician with 40+ years of experience, my impression is that there probably are some medical benefits from the components in marijuana. The problem, and it is a major one, is that here again we have an abundance of claims and very little good science on which to evaluate those claims.

How do we put all of this together? Bottom line – marijuana use may well have some benefits but there clearly are risks – risks that are being more clearly defined and are probably greater than previously appreciated. As all too often happens, the politics has gotten ahead of the science.

Tom Dean, MD of Wessington Springs, South Dakota is a contributing Prairie Doc columnist who has practiced family medicine for more than 40 years. He served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Tom Dean, MD

## Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 Walk It Off Against Crusaders

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 took Sunday's game in dramatic fashion, with a 7-6 walk-off victory over Crusaders. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 were down 6-5 in the bottom of the sixth inning when Carter Simon singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 rallied for the victory despite trailing 5-0 in the fourth.

Crusaders jumped out to the lead in the top of the fourth inning after Broc Bauer singled, scoring one run, Wesley A doubled, scoring one run, and Easton E doubled, scoring three runs.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 made the score 7-6 in the bottom of the sixth after an error scored one run, and Simon singled, scoring two runs.

Nicholas Morris earned the win for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed 10 hits and six runs (five earned) over six innings, striking out four and walking one. Andrew U took the loss for Crusaders. They went two-thirds of an inning, giving up three runs (zero earned) on zero hits, striking out two and walking one. Trueth C.G. led things off on the hill for Crusaders. They surrendered seven hits and four runs (two earned) over four and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking five.

Simon drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. Gavin Kroll, Lincoln Krause, Karsten Fliehs, Simon, Jarrett Erdmann, Alex Abeln, Gavin Englund, and Morris each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 worked the count all day, collecting six walks. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 turned one double play in the game.

Crusaders collected 10 hits in the game. A, Mack S, E, and Bauer each collected two hits for Crusaders. E led Crusaders with three runs batted in. The outfielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Crusaders turned one double play in the game.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 will travel to Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen for their next game on Monday.

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## Crusaders 6 - 7 Groton Jr. Legion Post 39

📍 Home 📅 Sunday June 30, 2024

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
CRSD	0	0	0	5	0	1	6	10	5
GRTN	0	0	0	2	2	3	7	8	1

### BATTING

Crusaders	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Mack S #4 (CF)	3	1	2	0	1	1
Easton E #2 (LF)	4	0	2	3	0	0
Shooter F #11 (C)	4	0	0	0	0	1
G Farlee #1 (3B)	2	1	1	0	0	1
Andrew U #19 (SS)	3	1	1	0	0	0
K G.S #24 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	0
B Bauer #23 (DH)	3	2	2	1	0	0
Brady L #10 (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Wesley A #9 (RF)	3	1	2	2	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

**2B:** Easton E, Wesley A, Mack S, **TB:** B Bauer 2, Easton E 3, Andrew U, G Farlee, Wesley A 3, Mack S 3, **HBP:** G Farlee, **SB:** Easton E, **LOB:** 6

### PITCHING

Crusaders	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T C.G. #0	4.2	7	4	2	5	4	0
<b>Andrew U #19</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Easton E #2	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

**L:** Andrew U, **P-S:** Easton E 5-3, Andrew U 25-18, T C.G. 89-48, **HBP:** T C.G. 2, **BF:** Easton E 2, Andrew U 6, T C.G. 28

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (LF)	4	1	1	0	0	1
K Flieds #10 (C)	3	1	1	0	1	0
G Englund #18 (3B)	3	2	1	1	0	0
N Morris #17 (P)	3	1	1	0	1	0
C Simon #4 (SS)	3	1	1	2	1	0
N Groebl... #12 (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	0
J Erdmann #0 (CF)	2	1	1	1	1	1
K Antonsen #7 (2B)	1	0	0	1	1	1
G Kroll #8 (DH)	2	0	1	1	1	1
A Abeln #23	3	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

**TB:** G Kroll, N Morris, C Simon, G Englund, K Flieds, A Abeln, J Erdmann, L Krause, **HBP:** K Antonsen, G Englund, **SB:** G Englund, K Flieds, L Krause, **LOB:** 10

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Morris #17	6.0	10	6	5	1	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

**W:** N Morris, **P-S:** N Morris 91-57, **WP:** N Morris 2, **HBP:** N Morris, **BF:** N Morris 30

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What are some innovative ways companies are accessing renewable energy nowadays?

-- Peter V., Milwaukee, WI

With energy production accounting for upwards of 75 percent of global greenhouse emissions and more and more companies looking to reduce their carbon footprints, it makes sense that a whole new generation of start-ups would spring to life to help put business customers together with green energy producers.

One of these innovative green go-betweens is Copenhagen-based Reel Energy. Businesses looking to slash their carbon footprints can call upon Reel to provide them with green power at fixed, low prices for five to 10 years. Reel, in turn, uses this funding to contract with solar and wind developers to break ground on new renewable energy projects. Reel has expanded heavily throughout Europe in recent years but you can expect to see their deals pop up increasingly in the U.S. and elsewhere moving forward.

Another take on B2B green energy sourcing comes by way of Seattle-based Drift Energy, which helps companies buy 100 percent green power and thus offset their other carbon emissions. Customers sign on the dotted line to purchase all of the energy they will need for one to five years, and Drift gets to work supplying them with green power culled from local wind farms, solar arrays and hydroelectric dams. By helping take the guesswork out of sourcing green power, Drift is able to help other businesses do the right thing and derive emissions reduction and PR benefits in the process.

Meanwhile, Clearloop out of Nashville Tennessee takes a similar approach by syncing up companies looking to reduce their carbon footprints with new sources of green energy. But Clearloop's version emphasizes environmental justice, using customer funding to break ground on wind farms and solar arrays in traditionally disenfranchised and overly polluted communities across the American South. To date, Clearloop has funded dozens of wind and solar projects in Louisiana, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Yet another green energy matchmaker model is LevelTen Energy, also from Seattle, which runs the world's largest platform connecting green power buyers and sellers. LevelTen's marketplace allows buyers to compare different options, receive custom offers and reduce risks through automated analytics for market price offers. By lowering the risk of investment and widening access to green energy, LevelTen streamlines the process of purchasing renewable energy. To date, LevelTen's transaction infrastructure has helped broker some 4,500 renewables-based power purchase agreements (PPAs) funding more than 1,800 wind, solar and other renewable power projects in 28 different countries.

Still another way for companies to procure green power at fixed pricing and reduce their carbon footprints is by going in on group buys of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) through Evergreen Renewables. RECs represent proof that one megawatt-hour of electricity was generated from a renewable energy source. A recent deal orchestrated by Evergreen and transacted on its marketplace saw eight brands go in together on the purchase of enough RECs to fund the repowering of a 55 megawatt wind farm in Texas that was otherwise slated for demolition. These types of deals enable even smaller companies to participate in large group buys of RECs, further expanding access to green energy.



**A unique partnership brokered by Evergreen between 8 companies and a wind developer is enabling an aging 55 MW wind farm in Texas to escape demolition and live another life.** Credit: U.S.

Bureau of Land Management.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### 'Sacred Return': Tribal ceremony honors birth of prophesied white buffalo calf

**Calf's arrival means people need to come together and help Mother Nature, leaders say**

**BY: BLAIR MILLER, DAILY MONTANAN - JUNE 30, 2024 7:00 AM**

HEBGEN LAKE, Montana — The birth of a sacred white buffalo calf earlier this month in Yellowstone National Park's Lamar Valley fulfills a tribal prophecy, according to Native American spiritual leaders.

The prophecy means people need to take better care of Mother Earth and must come together to do so, leaders and elders told a group of about 500 people gathered Wednesday on the north shore of Hebgen Lake.

"It's up to each and every one of you to make it happen for the future of our children. We must come together and bring that good energy back," said Chief Arvol Looking Horse, the spiritual and ceremonial leader of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people and the 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe and Bundle.

Looking Horse presided over the ceremony just west of Yellowstone National Park, which encompasses sacred ancestral lands for many western and northern plains tribes. He unveiled a buffalo hide painted with a portrait of the calf, naming it Wakan Gli, which means "Sacred Return," "Sacred Comes Home," or "Comes Holy," according to tribal leaders who were at the ceremony.

Representatives from the Shoshone-Bannock, Lakota, Sioux, Northern Arapaho and Colville tribes were among those who told the crowd of tribal members, tourists, and others who had traveled to the ceremony at the Buffalo Field Campaign headquarters that the birth of Wakan Gli was a foreboding message that the world is in a bad place at the moment, but also that it would help bring forth guidance on how to fix things.

"Understand that our ancestors come here and that when we come here, those spirits of our ancestors wake up and we introduce ourselves to the land," said Darnell Sam, the Wenatchi Salmon Chief and member of the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington. "...When we sing our songs, those spirits visit



**A buffalo hide with a painting of Wakan Gli was unveiled on June 26, 2024.** (Blair Miller/Daily Montanan)

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one another. They hold each other up. And that's what we're here to do today is to support one another for this buffalo spirit."

Long ago, Looking Horse said, there was a time when food was disappearing, bison were scarce, and the people were sick and hungry. Tribes were looking for buffalo near what is now known as Devil's Tower, when the White Buffalo Calf Woman presented herself to two scouts.

The next day, the White Buffalo Calf Woman appeared again, as she had promised, and brought the sacred red-stone pipe and bundle and showed them how to pray to the creator and find food. As she left over the hills, she first took the form of other colors of buffalo, then turned into a white buffalo. She told the people that she would one day return as a white buffalo calf with a black nose, black eyes, and black hooves.

"Mother Earth is going to be sick and has a fever. And that's happening right now, as we speak. This is a prophecy that has been fulfilled," Looking Horse said. "...And that's the only way Mother Earth is going to speak – through these white animals."

Looking Horse called the calf's birth a "momentous time in our history." About a dozen tribal members from across the region shared versions of what the white buffalo, and the American bison species in general, mean to the tribes and their heritages, and led the ceremony in prayer and song.

The arrival of the calf also offered a chance for deep reflection, the speakers said, on why it appeared now and how people need to recognize that its coming means they will have to change their behaviors with each other and with nature in order to save Mother Earth.

"Look at the interactions that we have as human beings, because there's something we're missing there," said Devin Old Man of the Northern Arapahoe Tribe on the Wind River reservation in Wyoming. "And it's just as simple as sitting underneath the tree listening to the birds, watching the bees get the honey. Paying attention to these wild animals because they're in their natural habitat."

The calf has been elusive after it was first photographed in the Lamar Valley by Kalispell photographer Erin Braaten in early June. The Buffalo Field Campaign has provided photos of the calf taken by Jordan Creech.

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly said in an interview last week the staff at the park had not seen the calf yet but the "search was on." He said if the calf survives, he imagines it will become an animal celebrity of sorts, like Grizzly 399, the grizzly bear that lives in Grand Teton National Park and is followed by dozens of photographers.

"There will probably be a lot of people going to find the white bison. Maybe that bison figured it out and took off into the deep backcountry just to hang out there," Sholly said. "But I'm sure it'll be news if we see it again."

According to the National Park Service Biological Resources Division and to Looking Horse, the last white buffalo with black eyes, nose and hooves to survive infancy was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1994.

Called "Miracle," she was the first white buffalo calf born since 1933; that bison is known as "Big Medicine." These types of white buffalo differ from albino buffalo. Another white buffalo calf born in Minnesota in 2012 died two weeks later.

Mike Mease, the campaign coordinator for the Buffalo Field Campaign, said Wednesday that holding the ceremony for the sacred white buffalo calf was "the biggest honor of my life." He helped start the organization nearly three decades ago to help preserve the nation's largest wild bison herd, which Indian Country and many who work in the field refer to as buffalo.

"From that day to this day, I've had the honor of standing with these buffalo, of learning from these buffalo, understanding them more than I understand most people, to be quite honest," Mease said. "And those buffalo teach me about unity and about caring for one another."

He explained that buffalo help each other survive the bitterly cold and long winters each year and help other animals in the ecosystem survive as well through months of deep snow. The lead bison cuts through the deepest snow, and the rest of the herd follows behind in a single file, then allows the lead buffalo to move to the back to rest.

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"In that lesson, we learn the buffalo as a family, as a herd, share the burden of survival. They work together to make it all work. And when that trail is built back there in the deep snows, then the deer use it. The elk use it. The wolves use it," he said. "Because the buffaloes are the protectors of the land, the people, and all the other animals."

Looking Horse said when he was chosen in 1966 at 12 years old to be the sacred pipe and bundle keeper, his grandmother who preceded him in that role had a warning about Mother Earth and the prophecy of the White Buffalo Calf Woman.

"She also told the people that if people don't straighten up, then I shall be the last sacred bundle keeper, and that is always in my heart."

## **Yellowstone National Park statement about white bison calf**

### **Confirmation**

At this time, Yellowstone National Park can confirm, based on multiple creditable sightings, that a white bison calf was born in Lamar Valley on June 4, 2024.

Yellowstone's Center for Resources Bison Management Team received numerous reports and photos of the calf taken on June 4 from park visitors, professional wildlife watchers, commercial guides and researchers.

To date, park staff have been unable to locate the calf.

To our knowledge, there have been no confirmed sightings by park visitors since June 4.

Photos provided to park biologists indicate the calf is leucistic (black eyes and hooves with some pigmentation), rather than an albino animal.

### **Significance**

The birth of a white bison calf was a rare natural phenomenon that once occurred before the near extinction of bison in the late 19th century, when bison numbered in the tens of millions.

The birth of a white bison calf may reflect the presence of a natural genetic legacy that was preserved in Yellowstone's bison, which has revealed itself because of the successful recovery of a wild bison population of 3,000-6,000 animals.

The birth of a white bison calf in the wild is a landmark event in the ecocultural recovery of bison by the National Park Service (NPS).

The NPS has never reported a white calf being born within Yellowstone National Park.

The birth of a white bison calf in the wild is believed to occur in 1 in 1 million births or even less frequently.

The NPS acknowledges the cultural significance of a white bison calf for American Indians.

### **Bison population**

The bison population fluctuates from 3,000 to 6,000 animals in two subpopulations, defined by where they gather for breeding. The northern herd breeds in the Lamar Valley and on the high plateaus around it. The central herd breeds in Hayden Valley.

The NPS estimates the 2024 pre-calving bison population around 4,550. Calving occurs in a single pulse during late spring and early summer.

The NPS will complete annual post-calving counts this August.

Each spring, about 1 in 5 bison calves die shortly after birth due to natural hazards.

Read more about bison ecology and bison management in Yellowstone.

*Blair Miller is a Daily Montanan reporter based in Helena who primarily covers government, climate and courts. He's been a journalist for more than 12 years, previously based in Denver, Albuquerque and mid-Missouri.*

## 'Fake weed' ban will take effect Monday as lawsuit against it proceeds

**Pierre store suing state in federal court over bill blocking hemp-derived intoxicants**

BY: JOHN HULT - JUNE 29, 2024 5:08 PM

A new law barring the production or sale of high-inducing, hemp-derived cannabis products will take effect Monday after a judge declined to block it.

Hemp Quarters 605, a Pierre-based shop that sells those products, filed a lawsuit earlier this month in U.S. District Court in South Dakota. The business claims the new law's provisions are unconstitutional and in conflict with federal law.

The 2018 federal farm bill legalized the production and sale of industrial hemp and hemp-derived products, provided they contain less than 0.3% of the intoxicating compound delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, known as THC, by dry weight.

House Bill 1125, signed into law in March by Gov. Kristi Noem, targets five types of chemicals that appear at low levels in hemp plants. The chemicals can be synthesized and added in amounts large enough for hemp products to ape the intoxicating effects of the delta-9 THC found in marijuana.

Marijuana remains illegal at the federal level, even though it's legal in some states and medical marijuana is legal in South Dakota.

A violation of the new law will be a class 2 misdemeanor, the state's lowest-level



**A neon sign advertises delta-8 products at a store in Sioux Falls.**

(John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

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criminal offense. Like most laws adopted by the Legislature, its effective date is July 1.

Products like gummies, vape pens and smokable hemp containing the chemicals targeted by the new law are widely available across South Dakota. They're sold in gas stations, grocery and liquor stores and in specialty smoke shops like Hemp Quarters 605.

The company had asked U.S. District Judge Eric Schulte to issue a preliminary injunction to block the law from taking effect as the case plays out in court.

At a hearing on that injunction Thursday in Pierre, Hemp Quarters 605 representatives testified that hemp-derived products constitute more than two-thirds of their retail business.

They argue the state is violating the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause by interfering with the sale of federally legal products across state lines. An injunction is appropriate, they said, because they will suffer irreparable harm – namely the potential closure of their business – when the law takes effect.

To earn a preliminary injunction, plaintiffs must first prove they're likely to "prevail on the merits," according to an opinion that Judge Schulte filed electronically on Saturday. If the plaintiff – the hemp store in this case – is able to hit that mark, a judge must then find that the plaintiff would suffer irreparable harm without an injunction. The judge must also consider the wider implications of an injunction on other "interested parties" – in this case, the state and those affected by the new law.

A preliminary injunction denial does not settle the lawsuit or guarantee a win for the state, represented in the case by Attorney General Marty Jackley's office.

Judge Schulte wrote that Hemp Quarters' arguments weren't enough to earn an injunction, even if the law might cause its business irreparable harm.

The 2018 farm bill did not expressly prohibit states from enacting laws regulating the hemp trade. In fact, Schulte wrote, it did just the opposite, allowing states to impose "more stringent" regulations for hemp.

"The Legislature's passage of HB 1125 falls squarely within the police powers traditionally reserved to states, as it is intended to promote the health and welfare of South Dakota's citizens," Schulte wrote.

Schulte cited a case challenging a Virginia law regulating hemp in which the judge came to a similar conclusion.

On the commerce clause question, Hemp Quarters had argued that a truck driver from Minnesota carrying federally legal hemp through South Dakota could be subject to state prosecution.

Schulte disagreed. He wrote that the law wouldn't apply in such a scenario, because it doesn't criminalize the possession of hemp products. It only bans their production or distribution.

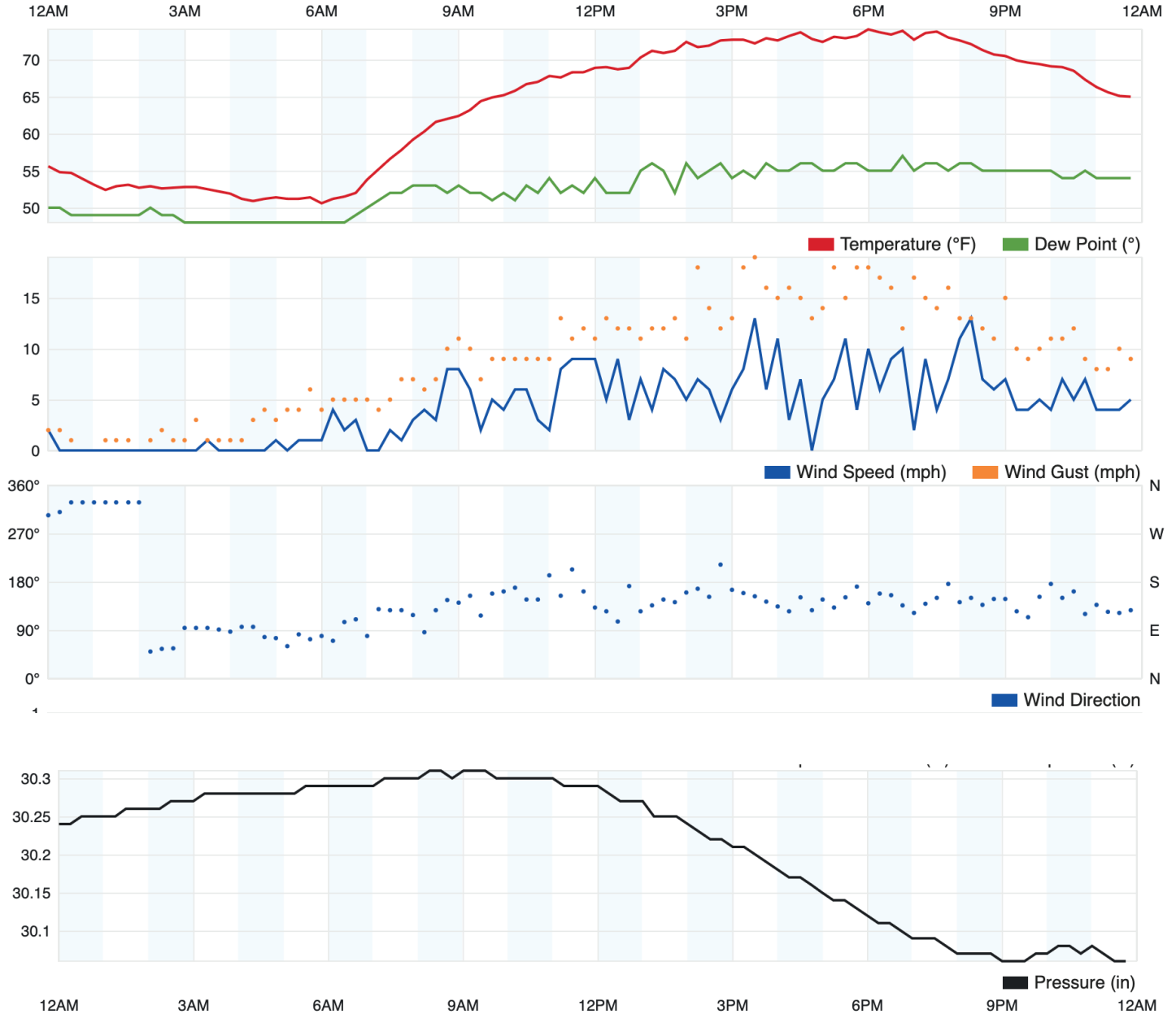
The opinion also noted that the Hughes County state's attorney has said it has no plans to immediately prosecute the owners of Hemp Quarters. The Attorney General's Office has made no such promise, Schulte wrote, but lawyers for the state pointed out that "The South Dakota Attorney General's Office does not typically prosecute misdemeanor offenses such as those contained within HB 1125."

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





# Broton Daily Independent

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Today

Tonight

Tuesday

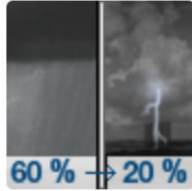
Tuesday Night

Wednesday



High: 74 °F

Chance  
T-storms and  
Breezy



Low: 59 °F

Showers  
Likely then  
Slight Chance  
T-storms



High: 82 °F

Mostly Sunny



Low: 58 °F

Mostly Clear



High: 86 °F

Sunny



## Severe Thunderstorms Today

July 1, 2024  
2:34 AM

### Key Messages

- Thunderstorms are expected to develop along a cold front by late afternoon and move from west to east across the region
- Monitor the weather and have a plan if severe weather strikes your area

Severe Thunderstorm Coverage



Main Threats:



Golf ball size  
hair or larger



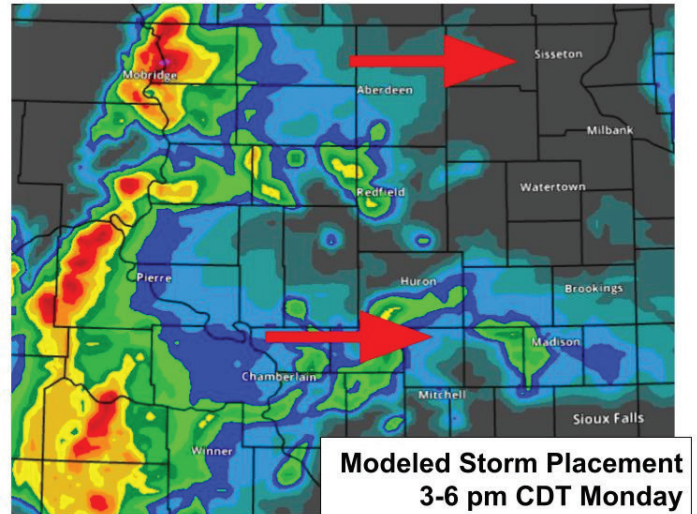
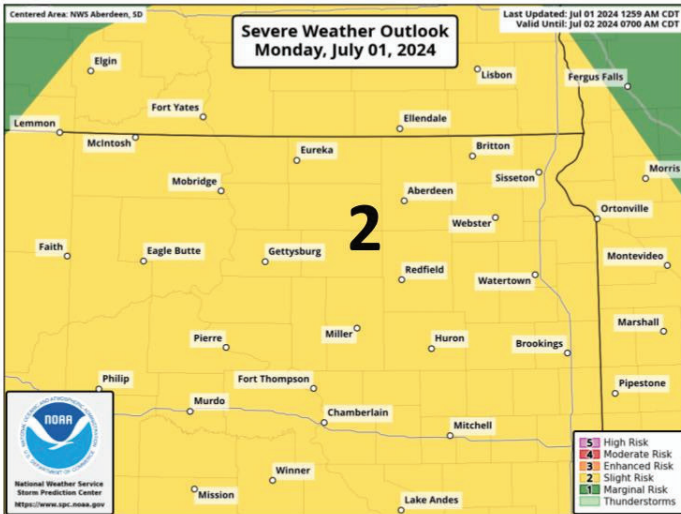
Wind 60-70+  
mph



Flood risk for  
areas with recent  
heavy rain



Tornado threat  
highest over  
central SD



Thunderstorms are expected to develop along a cold front by late this afternoon and move from west to east across the region. All hazards are possible with severe storms. Make sure you have several ways to receive warnings and have a plan if severe weather strikes your area.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 74 °F at 5:55 PM

Low Temp: 51 °F at 5:55 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 3:26 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 39 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1911

Record Low: 41 in 1995

Average High: 84

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in June.: 0.12

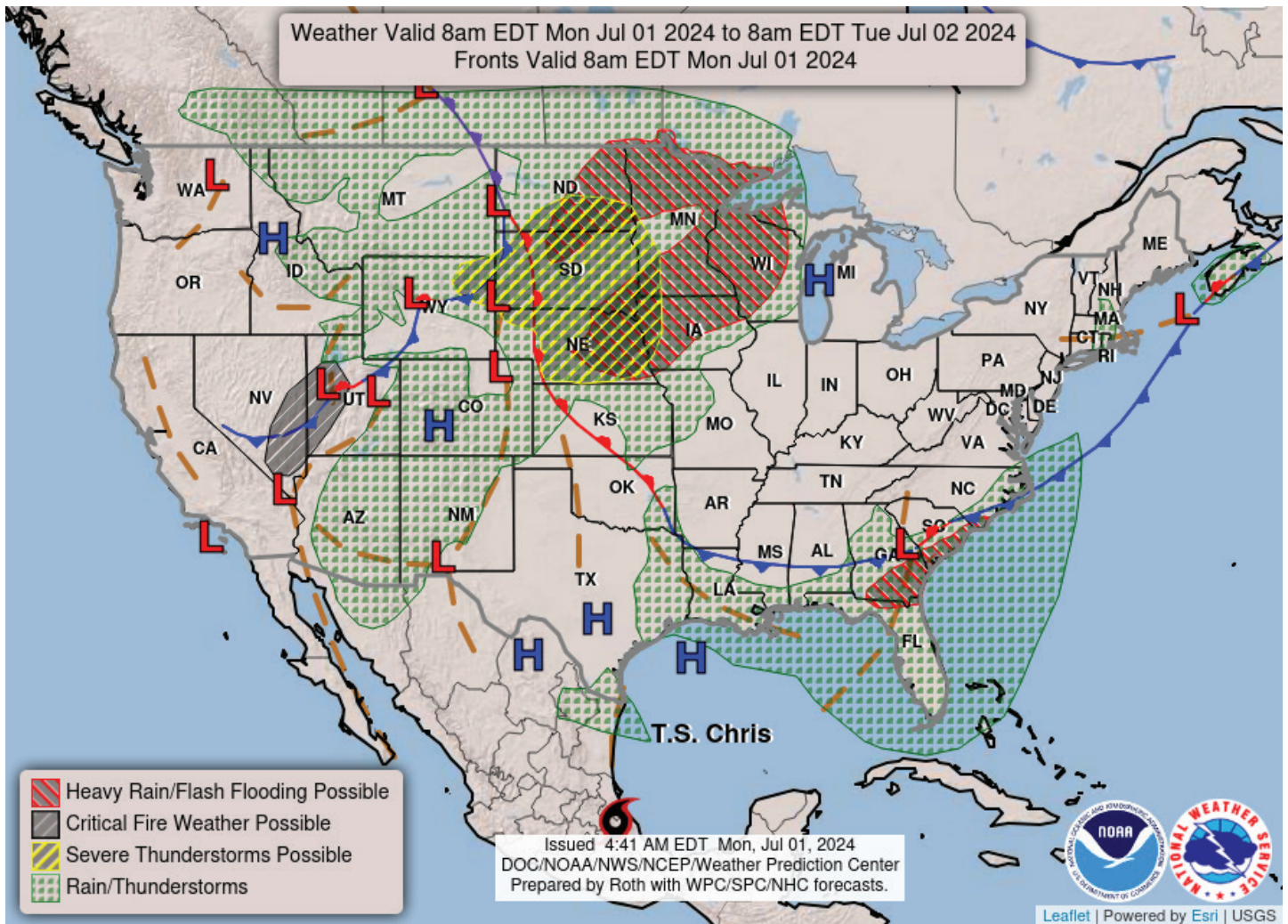
Precip to date in June: 3.98

Average Precip to date: 11.13

Precip Year to Date: 11.05

Sunset Tonight: 9:26:20 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47:09 am



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## Today in Weather History

July 1, 1928: A powerful, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 6 miles west of Miller, Hand County, destroying farms near the start of the path. All buildings were leveled to the ground, including two homes. A checkbook from one residence was found 10 miles away. Estimated property damaged was set at \$50,000.

July 1, 1955: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast near Bowdle. Two barns were destroyed. A small girl and a pony were reportedly carried a quarter mile without injury. A tornado was also spotted in Emmons County in North Dakota, causing \$10,000 worth of damage.

July 1, 2005: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in late June causing widespread flooding. The flood waters slowly receded through July 10th. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the houses were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs.

July 1, 2006: With continued little or no rainfall along with much above average temperatures, a drought expanded and intensified through July across central and north central South Dakota. Severe (D2) to an extreme (D3) drought early in July worsened to an extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) across all of the areas by the middle of July and remained there until the end of the month. Rainfall was 1.50 inches to 2.25 inches below average for the month and from 7 to 8 inches below average for the year. Soil moisture was 4 to 5 inches below average, and lakes and river flows were well below normal. Crops and pastures were devastated due to the extreme dryness and burn bans were in effect across all of the areas. Many ranchers had to sell off much of their cattle. Throughout July, periodic high winds, low relative humidity values, along with many lightning storms resulted in several fires across central and north central South Dakota. The fires burned tens of thousands of acres of pastureland and cropland. Hundreds of firefighters worked throughout the month to contain the flames. The governor of South Dakota declared a statewide emergency and the United States Department of Agriculture declared all of the counties drought disasters. Swan Lake, in north-central South Dakota between Lowry and Hoven, had completely dried up from the long period of dryness. The last time this happened to the lake was 30 years prior in 1976. Also, Lake Oahe at Pierre was four feet above its all-time low.

1792 - A tremendous storm (a tornado or hurricane) hit Philadelphia and New York City. Many young people were drowned while out boating on that Sunday. (David Ludlum)

1861: Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, India measured 366 inches of rain during the month of July 1861. From August 1, 1860, to July 31, 1861, Cherrapunji received a record-breaking 1,041.75 inches of precipitation.

1911 - The high of just 79 degrees at Phoenix AZ was their coolest daily maximum of record for the month of July. The normal daily high for July 1st is 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - It snowed almost half a foot (5.8 inches) at Stampede Pass WA, a July record. (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Twenty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 48 degrees at Providence RI, 48 degrees at Roanoke VA, 49 degrees at Stratford CT, and 48 degrees at Wilmington, DE, were records for the month of July. Boston MA equalled their record for July with a low of 50 degrees. Five inches of snow whitened Mount Washington NH. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms associated with the low pressure system which was once Tropical Storm Allison continued to drench parts of Mississippi, Louisiana and eastern Texas. Late night thunderstorms produced 12.58 inches of rain at Biloxi, MS, in six hours, and 10.73 inches at Gulfport MS. Flooding in Mississippi over the first six days of the month caused 55 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002: San Antonio, Texas recorded 9.52 inches of rain on this day to set a new record for its greatest rainfall for the entire month of July.

Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### TURNING DEAF EARS

Roger was sent home from school with a note from his teacher. "Mrs. Arnold," the note read, "your son was involved in an incident in the cafeteria today at noon. He and two other students took the food from another student's tray and would not allow him to eat. He has been assigned a week of detention starting tomorrow."

After reading the note to Roger, Mrs. Arnold said, "Son, why did you do such a thing?"

After a moment's thought he replied, "Mom, the other guys asked me to help them, and I thought it would be fun!"

"Shame on you Roger," said his mother. "When you are asked to do things that are wrong, you should turn a deaf ear."

"But Mom," he protested, "I don't have a deaf ear."

It is difficult to go through one day without being tempted by Satan to disobey God. He's always there presenting one opportunity after another to get us to turn from the Lord and follow his invitation to break God's laws. However, being tempted is not sin. Giving into a temptation to disobey God's commandments is.

Perhaps we can describe temptation as Satan peeking into the keyhole of our heart trying to find a weak spot. He comes without any warning or notice and will only leave when asked. Resist him and he flees.

Prayer: Alert us, Lord, to the subtleties of Satan when he begins to tempt us to follow him and turn from You rather than to worship You and obey Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:25-31



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
06.28.24

28 31 33 42 66 24

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$137,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 41  
DRAW: Mins 21 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
06.29.24

10 15 21 22 42 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$4,090,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 56 Mins 22  
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
06.30.24

6 9 12 24 32 14

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 11 Mins 22  
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
06.29.24

2 6 23 29 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$23,000**

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 11  
DRAW: Mins 21 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
06.29.24

6 28 49 53 69 8

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 40 Mins 22  
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
06.29.24

26 51 54 61 69 25

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$125,000,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 40 Mins 22  
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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## Upcoming Groton Events

- 07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
- 07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
- 07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
- 07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
- 07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
- 08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
- 08/02/2024 Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
- 08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
- 08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
- 08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
- 09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close

## News from the Associated Press

### **Trump ally Steve Bannon will report to federal prison to serve 4-month sentence on contempt charges**

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon is scheduled to report to a federal prison in Connecticut on Monday to serve a four-month sentence on contempt charges for defying a subpoena in the congressional investigation into the U.S. Capitol attack.

A judge had allowed Bannon to stay free for nearly two years while he appealed, but ordered him to report to prison Monday after an appeals court panel upheld his contempt of Congress convictions.

The Supreme Court rejected his last-minute appeal to stave off his sentence.

A jury found Bannon guilty of two counts of contempt of Congress: one for refusing to sit for a deposition with the Jan. 6 House Committee and a second for refusing to provide documents related to his involvement in the Republican ex-president's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Defense attorneys have argued the case raises issues that should be examined by the Supreme Court, including Bannon's previous lawyer's belief that the subpoena was invalid because former President Donald Trump had asserted executive privilege. Prosecutors, though, say Bannon had left the White House years before and Trump had never invoked executive privilege in front of the committee.

Bannon's appeal will continue to play out, and Republican House leaders have put their support behind stepping in to assert the Jan. 6 committee was improperly created, effectively trying to deem the subpoena Bannon received as illegitimate.

Another Trump aide, trade adviser Peter Navarro, has also been convicted of contempt of Congress. He reported to prison in March to serve his four-month sentence after the Supreme Court refused his bid to delay the sentence.

Bannon is also facing criminal charges in New York state court alleging he duped donors who gave money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Bannon has pleaded not guilty to money laundering, conspiracy, fraud and other charges, and that trial has been postponed until at least the end of September.

### **European Union accuses Facebook owner Meta of breaking digital rules with paid ad-free option**

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — European Union regulators accused social media company Meta Platforms on Monday of breaching the bloc's new digital competition rulebook by forcing Facebook and Instagram users to choose between seeing ads or paying to avoid them.

Meta has been giving European users the option since November of paying for ad-free versions of Facebook and Instagram as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules.

Desktop browser users can pay about 10 euros (\$10.50) a month while iOS or Android users will pay roughly 13 euros to avoid being targeted by ads based on their personal data.

The U.S. tech giant rolled out the subscription option after the European Union's top court ruled that under strict EU data privacy rules, Meta must first get consent before showing ads to users.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said preliminary findings of its investigation show that Meta's "pay or consent" advertising model was in breach of the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act.

The commission said Meta's model doesn't allow users to exercise their right to "freely consent" to allowing their personal data to be used to target them with online ads.

The commission had opened its investigation shortly after the rulebook, also known as the DMA, took effect in March. It's a sweeping set of regulations aimed at preventing tech "gatekeepers" from cornering digital markets under threat of heavy financial penalties.



"The DMA is there to give back to the users the power to decide how their data is used and ensure innovative companies can compete on equal footing with tech giants on data access," European Commissioner Thierry Breton, who oversees the bloc's digital policy, said in a statement.

Meta now has a chance to respond to the commission, which must wrap up its investigation by March 2025. The company could face fines worth 10% of its annual global revenues, which could run into the billions of euros.

"Subscription for no ads follows the direction of the highest court in Europe and complies with the DMA," Meta said in a statement. "We look forward to further constructive dialogue with the European Commission to bring this investigation to a close."

Under the Digital Markets Act, Meta is classed as one of seven online gatekeepers while Facebook, Instagram and its ad business are among about two dozen "core platform services" that need the highest level of scrutiny.

## **French far right ahead in 1st round of snap elections. Here's how runoff works and what comes next**

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French voters face a decisive choice on July 7 in the runoff of snap parliamentary elections that could see the country's first far-right government since the World War II Nazi occupation — or no majority emerging at all.

Official results suggest Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration, nationalist party National Rally stands a good chance of winning a majority in the lower house of parliament for the first time, but the outcome remains uncertain amid the complex voting system and political tactics.

What happened?

In Sunday's first round, the National Rally and its allies arrived ahead with around one-third of the votes. The New Popular Front coalition that includes center-left, greens and hard-left forces came in second position, ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance.

Dozens of candidates who won at least 50% of Sunday's vote were elected outright. All the other races head to a second round June 7 involving two or three top candidates.

Polling projections suggest the National Rally will have the most seats in the next National Assembly, but it is unclear whether it will get an absolute majority of 289 of the 577 seats.

The French voting system is not proportionate to nationwide support for a party. Legislators are elected by district.

What's next?

The National Rally's rivals are scrambling to keep it from getting an absolute majority.

The left-wing coalition said it would withdraw its candidates in districts where they finished in third position in order to support other candidates opposed to the far right. Macron's centrist alliance also said some of its candidates would step down before the runoff to try to block the National Rally.

That tactic worked in the past, when Le Pen's party and its predecessor National Front were considered a political pariah by many. But now Le Pen's party has wide and deep support across the country.

Why is the far right rising?

While France has one of the world's biggest economies and is an important diplomatic and military power, many French voters are struggling with inflation and low incomes and a sense that they are being left behind by globalization.

Le Pen's party, which blames immigration for many of France's problems, has tapped into that voter frustration and built a nationwide support network, notably in small towns and farming communities that see Macron and the Paris political class as out of touch.

What's cohabitation?

If the National Rally or another political force than his centrist alliance gets a majority, Macron will be forced to appoint a prime minister belonging to that new majority.

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In such a situation — called “cohabitation” in France — the government would implement policies that diverge from the president’s plan.

France’s modern Republic has experienced three cohabitations, the last one under conservative President Jacques Chirac, with Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, from 1997 to 2002.

The prime minister is accountable to the parliament, leads the government and introduces bills.

The president is weakened at home during cohabitation, but still holds some powers over foreign policy, European affairs and defense because he is in charge of negotiating and ratifying international treaties. The president is also the commander-in-chief of the country’s armed forces, and is the one holding the nuclear codes.

Why does it matter?

The National Assembly, the lower house, is the more powerful of France’s two houses of parliament. It has the final say in the law-making process over the Senate, dominated by conservatives.

Macron has a presidential mandate until 2027, and said he would not step down before the end of his term. But a weakened French president could complicate many issues on the world stage.

During previous cohabitations, defense and foreign policies were considered the informal “reserved field” of the president, who was usually able to find compromises with the prime minister to allow France to speak with one voice abroad.

Yet today, both the far-right and the leftist coalition’s views in these areas differ radically from Macron’s approach and would likely be a subject of tension during a potential cohabitation.

Far-right leader Jordan Bardella, who could become prime minister if his party wins the majority of the seats, said he intends “to be a cohabitation prime minister who is respectful of the Constitution and of the President of the Republic’s role but uncompromising about the policies we will implement.”

Bardella said that as a prime minister, he would oppose sending French troops to Ukraine — a possibility Macron has not ruled out. Bardella also said he would refuse French deliveries of long-range missiles and other weaponry capable of striking targets within Russia itself.

What happens if there’s no majority?

The president can name a prime minister from the parliamentary group with the most seats at the National Assembly even if they don’t have an absolute majority — this was the case of Macron’s own centrist alliance since 2022.

Yet the National Rally already said it would reject such an option, because it would mean a far-right government could soon be overthrown through a no-confidence vote if other political parties join together.

The president could try to build a broad coalition from the left to the right, an option that sounds unlikely, given the political divergences.

Another option would be to appoint “a government of experts” unaffiliated with political parties but which would still need to be accepted by a majority at the National Assembly. Such a government would likely deal mostly with day-to-day affairs rather than implementing major reforms.

If political talks take too long amid summer holidays and the July 26-Aug. 11 Olympics in Paris, Macron’s centrist government could keep a transitional government pending further decisions.

## **Dangerous Hurricane Beryl closes in on southeast Caribbean**

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hurricane Beryl was closing in on the southeastern Caribbean, and government officials late Sunday pleaded with people to take shelter from the dangerous Category 3 storm.

The storm was expected to make landfall in the Windward Islands on Monday morning. Hurricane warnings were in effect for Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“This is a very dangerous situation,” warned the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, saying Beryl was “forecast to bring life-threatening winds and storm surge.”

Beryl was centered about 110 miles (175 kilometers) south-southeast of Barbados early Monday. It had maximum sustained winds of 120 mph (195 kph) and was moving west at 20 mph (31 kph). It is a compact

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storm, with hurricane-force winds extending 30 miles (45 kilometers) from its center.

It had gained Category 4 strength Sunday before weakening slightly, and further fluctuations in strength were forecast.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Martinique and Trinidad. A tropical storm watch was issued for Dominica, Haiti's entire southern coast, and from Punta Palenque in the Dominican Republic west to the border with Haiti.

Beryl was expected to pass just south of Barbados early Monday and then head into the Caribbean Sea as a major hurricane on a path toward Jamaica. It was forecast to weaken by midweek, but still remain a hurricane while heading toward Mexico.

Historic hurricane

Beryl initially strengthened into a Category 3 hurricane Sunday morning, becoming the first major hurricane east of the Lesser Antilles on record for June, according to Philip Klotzbach, Colorado State University hurricane researcher.

It took Beryl only 42 hours to strengthen from a tropical depression to a major hurricane — a feat accomplished only six other times in Atlantic hurricane history, and with Sept. 1 as the previous earliest date, hurricane expert Sam Lillo said.

Beryl then gained more power, becoming the earliest Category 4 Atlantic hurricane on record, besting Hurricane Dennis, which became a Category 4 storm on July 8, 2005, hurricane specialist and storm surge expert Michael Lowry said.

"Beryl is an extremely dangerous and rare hurricane for this time of year in this area," Lowry said in a phone interview. "Unusual is an understatement. Beryl is already a historic hurricane and it hasn't struck yet."

Hurricane Ivan in 2004 was the last strong hurricane to hit the southeastern Caribbean, causing catastrophic damage in Grenada as a Category 3 storm.

"So this is a serious threat, a very serious threat," Lowry said of Beryl.

Reecia Marshall, who lives in Grenada, was working a Sunday shift at a local hotel, preparing guests and urging them to stay away from windows as she stored enough food and water for everyone.

She said that she was a child when Hurricane Ivan struck and that she doesn't fear Beryl.

"I know it's part of nature. I'm OK with it," she said. "We just have to live with it."

Forecasters warned of a life-threatening storm surge of up to 9 feet (3 meters) in areas where Beryl makes landfall, with 3 to 6 inches (7.6 to 15 centimeters) of rain for Barbados and nearby islands and possibly 10 inches in some areas (25 centimeters).

Warm waters are fueling Beryl, with ocean heat content in the deep Atlantic the highest on record for this time of year, said Brian McNoldy, a tropical meteorology researcher at the University of Miami.

Lowry said the waters are now warmer than they would be at the peak of the hurricane season in September.

Beryl marks the farthest east that a hurricane has formed in the tropical Atlantic in June, breaking a record set in 1933, according to Klotzbach.

"Please take this very seriously and prepare yourselves," said Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. "This is a terrible hurricane."

Bracing for the storm

Long lines formed at gas stations and grocery stores in Barbados and other islands as people rushed to prepare for a storm that rapidly intensified.

Thousands of people were in Barbados for Saturday's Twenty20 World Cup final, cricket's biggest event, with Prime Minister Mia Mottley noting that not all fans were able to leave Sunday despite many rushing to change their flights.

"Some of them have never gone through a storm before," she said. "We have plans to take care of them."

Mottley said all businesses should close by Sunday evening and warned that the airport would close by nighttime.

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Across Barbados, people prepared, including Peter Corbin, 71, who helped his son put up plywood to protect his home's glass doors. He said by phone that he worried about Beryl's impact on islands just east of Barbados.

"That's like a butcher cutting up a pig," he said. "They've got to make a bunker somewhere. It's going to be tough."

In St. Lucia, Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre announced a national shutdown for Sunday evening and said schools and businesses would remain closed Monday.

"Preservation and protection of life is a priority," he said.

Looking ahead

Caribbean leaders were preparing not only for Beryl, but for a cluster of thunderstorms trailing the hurricane that had a 70% chance of becoming a tropical depression.

"Do not let your guard down," Mottley said.

Beryl is the second named storm in what is forecast to be an above-average hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 in the Atlantic. Earlier this month, Tropical Storm Alberto came ashore in northeastern Mexico with heavy rains that resulted in four deaths.

On Sunday evening, a tropical depression formed near the eastern Mexico coastal city of Veracruz, with the National Hurricane Center warning of flooding and mudslides.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts the 2024 hurricane season is likely to be well above average, with between 17 and 25 named storms. The forecast calls for as many as 13 hurricanes and four major hurricanes.

An average Atlantic hurricane season produces 14 named storms, seven of them hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

## **Under pressure on plane safety,**

### **Boeing is buying stressed supplier Spirit for \$4.7 billion**

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Boeing announced plans to acquire key supplier Spirit AeroSystems for \$4.7 billion, a move that it says will improve plane quality and safety amid increasing scrutiny by Congress, airlines and the Department of Justice.

Boeing previously owned Spirit, and the purchase would reverse a longtime Boeing strategy of outsourcing key work on its passenger planes. That approach has been criticized as problems at Spirit disrupted production and delivery of popular Boeing jetliners including 737s and 787s.

"We believe this deal is in the best interest of the flying public, our airline customers, the employees of Spirit and Boeing, our shareholders and the country more broadly," Boeing President and CEO Dave Calhoun said in a statement late Sunday.

Concerns about safety came to a head after the Jan. 5 blowout of a panel on an Alaska Airlines 737 Max 9 at 16,000 feet (4,876 meters) over Oregon. The Federal Aviation Administration soon after announced increased oversight of Boeing and Spirit, which supplied the fuselage for the plane.

No one was seriously injured in the Alaska Airlines door incident, which terrified passengers, but Boeing is under pressure from the U.S. Justice Department to plead guilty to criminal fraud in connection with two deadly plane crashes involving its 737 Max jetliners more than five years ago.

Boeing has until the end of the week to accept or reject the offer, which includes the giant aerospace company agreeing to an independent monitor who would oversee its compliance with anti-fraud laws, according to several people who heard federal prosecutors detail a proposed offer Sunday.

The Justice Department said in a May court filing that Boeing violated terms of a 2021 settlement allowing the company to avoid prosecution for actions leading up to the crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia, which killed 346 people.

Those crashes were blamed on a faulty sensor in a flight-control system and the investigation is separate from the probe of the more recent Alaska Airlines blowout, which involved Spirit.

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Boeing spun off Spirit, which is based in Wichita, Kansas, and not related to Spirit Airlines, in 2005. In recent years, quality problems have mounted, including fuselage panels that didn't fit together precisely enough and holes that were improperly drilled.

Spirit removed its CEO in October and replaced him with Patrick Shanahan, a former Boeing executive who served as acting defense secretary in the Trump administration.

Things seemed to be going more smoothly until the Alaska Airlines incident. Investigators said a panel used in place of an extra emergency door had been removed at a Boeing factory to let Spirit workers fix damaged rivets, and bolts that help hold the panel in place were missing after the repair job. It is not clear who removed the bolts and failed to put them back.

Spirit said in May that it was laying off about 450 workers at its Wichita plant because of a production slowdown since the January incident. Its total workforce was just over 13,000 people.

"Bringing Spirit and Boeing together will enable greater integration of both companies' manufacturing and engineering capabilities, including safety and quality systems," Shanahan said.

The acquisition's equity value of \$4.7 billion is \$37.25 per share, while the total value of the deal is around \$8.3 billion, which includes Spirit's last reported net debt, the aerospace company said.

Boeing common stock will be exchanged for Spirit shares according to a variable formula that depends on a weighted average of the share price over a 15-trading-day period ending on the second day before the deal closes, Boeing said.

The companies also announced an agreement with Airbus to negotiate the purchase of Spirit assets involved with programs operated by the European aerospace firm. The Airbus agreement is set to commence when Boeing's acquisition of Spirit is completed, the two U.S. companies said.

## **Israel releases director of hospital it says was used as a Hamas base. He alleges abuse in custody**

By MOHAMMED JAHJOUH and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel released the director of Gaza's main hospital on Monday, seven months after the military raided the facility over allegations it was being used as a Hamas command center.

The release of Mohammed Abu Selmia without charge or trial raised further questions about Israel's allegations regarding Shifa Hospital, which its forces have raided on two occasions since the start of its nearly nine-month war with Hamas.

Abu Selmia said he and other prisoners had been tortured and held under harsh conditions, allegations that could not be independently confirmed but matched other accounts of Palestinian detainees who have been released back into Gaza.

"Our detainees have been subjected to all kinds of torture behind bars," he said. "There was almost daily torture. Cells are broken into and prisoners are beaten." He said guards broke his finger and caused his head to bleed during beatings, in which they used batons and dogs.

He said the medical staff at different facilities where he was held had also taken part in the abuse "in violation of all laws." He said some detainees had limbs amputated because of poor medical care.

Israeli officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment about why he had been released or his allegations of mistreatment. Prison authorities have previously denied such mistreating detainees.

Two far-right ministers in Israel's government meanwhile condemned Abu Selmia's release, saying it had been carried out without their consent.

Israeli forces raided Shifa Hospital in November, alleging that Hamas had created an elaborate command and control center inside the facility. Abu Selmia and other staff denied the allegations and accused Israel of recklessly endangering thousands of patients and displaced people who were sheltering there.

The military uncovered a tunnel beneath Shifa Hospital leading to a few rooms, as well as other evidence that militants had been present inside the medical center, but the evidence fell short of what it had claimed before the raid.

Abu Selmia was detained on Nov. 22 while escorting a U.N.-led evacuation of patients from the hospital.

He said his detention was "politically motivated," adding that he had been brought to court at least three times but was never charged or allowed to meet with lawyers.

Israel has since raided several other Gaza hospitals on similar allegations, forcing them to shut down or dramatically reduce services even as tens of thousands have been wounded in Israeli strikes or sickened in the harsh conditions of the war. The army raided Shifa a second time earlier this year, causing heavy destruction after saying that militants had regrouped there.

Hospitals can lose their protection under international law if combatants use them for military purposes.

Israel launched its offensive after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 civilians and took another 250 hostage. The war has killed over 37,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or fighters.

Most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have fled their homes, with many displaced multiple times. Israeli restrictions, ongoing fighting and the breakdown of public order have hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid, fueling widespread hunger and sparking fears of famine.

## North Koreans are seen wearing Kim Jong Un pins for the first time as his personality cult grows

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — For the first time, North Korean officials have been seen wearing lapel pins with the image of leader Kim Jong Un, another sign the North is boosting his personality cult to the level bestowed on his late dictator father and grandfather.

North Koreans are required to wear pins over their hearts which for decades bore images of either the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, or his son Kim Jong Il, or both. The existence of pins dedicated to Kim Jong Un had not been verified until state media published photos on Sunday showing officials wearing his pins at a ruling Workers' Party meeting.

The pins are part of a state-sponsored mythology surrounding the Kim family which treats Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il like gods. They are memorialized with numerous statues across North Korea, their birthdays are two of the country's main holidays and their portraits are hung in all homes and offices.

Few question current leader Kim Jong Un's hold on power, but few images honoring the 40-year-old have been displayed in public since he took power in late 2011 upon his father's death. Recently, however, he has begun taking steps to boost his own personality cult while also trying to further move out of the shadow of his father's and grandfather's legacies.

In May, his portrait was publicly displayed along with those of the two other Kims for the first time at a Workers' Party-run training school. In January, Kim announced he will no longer pursue peaceful unification with South Korea, a decadeslong policy cherished by his father and grandfather. Observers also say North Korea appears to be refraining from using terms like "the Day of Sun," a reference to the April 15 birthday of Kim Il Sung.

"The latest series of efforts to idolize Kim Jong Un is assessed as a move to dilute his predecessors while establishing his authority as a leader" different from them, Kim Inae, a deputy spokesperson for South Korea's Unification Ministry, told reporters Monday.

She said Kim is also likely trying to boost internal solidarity behind his leadership as he grapples with economic hardships and the influence of South Korean pop culture.

Ahn Kyung-su, head of dprkhealth.org, a website focusing on health issues in North Korea, said Kim Jong Un is trying to phase out the symbols representing the legacies of his predecessors to promote his own era. But as the third-generation leader in the Kim family, he will find it difficult to push too far because that would weaken the legitimacy of its dynastic rule, said Ahn, who has interviewed many North Korean defectors and closely monitors North Korean state media.

"Kim Jong Un is in a dilemma. He wants to stay away from his father's and grandfather's legacies more but he can't do so," Ahn said.

He said North Koreans are now expected to wear Kim Jong Un pins.

Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, said the wearing of Kim Jong Un pins isn't surprising, given that he has been consolidating his rule for over a decade.

"The question is, now that Kim has stepped out from the shadow of his predecessors, whether he will undertake policy adjustments to break with North Korea's past economic failures," Easley said.

In recent years, North Korea's fragile economy has suffered further setbacks because of strict pandemic restrictions, persistent U.N. sanctions and its own mismanagement. During a Workers' Party meeting on Saturday, Kim spoke about "some deviations obstructing" efforts to improve the country's economic status, according to state media.

Some experts say Kim's moves are also related to his reported push to make his preteen daughter his heir in another hereditary power transfer.

South Korea's spy agency said in January that it sees Kim's daughter, reportedly named Ju Ae and aged about 11, as her father's likely heir apparent. But some analysts say it's still too early to call her Kim's successor, citing her age and North Korea's male-dominated hierarchy.

## The Latest | Israel releases 55 Palestinians it had detained from Gaza, including hospital director

By The Associated Press undefined

A Palestinian health official says Israel released 55 Palestinians on Monday whom it had detained from Gaza, including the director of the territory's main hospital.

Mohammed Abu Selmia was detained in November when Israeli forces raided Shifa Hospital. In video comments aired by Palestinian media following his release, Abu Selmia accused Israeli authorities of subjecting Palestinian detainees to "daily physical and psychological humiliation." Israeli authorities have denied such allegations.

Israel accuses Hamas and other militant groups of sheltering in hospitals and using them for military purposes. Palestinian health officials say Israeli raids have forced several hospitals to shut down or dramatically reduce services, recklessly endangering civilians. Hospitals can lose their protection under international law if they are used for military purposes.

The Israeli military says around 20 projectiles were fired from Gaza at communities near the border early Monday. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Israel launched the war after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted about 250.

Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 37,700 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The war has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and basic goods to Gaza, and people there are now totally dependent on aid. The top United Nations court has concluded there is a "plausible risk of genocide" in Gaza — a charge Israel strongly denies.

Currently:

- An ultra-Orthodox protest against order to enlist in Israeli military turns violent in Jerusalem.
- An Israeli airstrike on the northern West Bank kills a Palestinian militant and wounds five other people.
- The United Nations starts to move tons of aid from the United States-built pier after security fears suspended work there.
- The U.S. and Europe warn Lebanon's Hezbollah to ease strikes on Israel and back off from a wider Mideast war.
- The Taliban tell the West to look past harsh edicts on Afghan women and girls and build ties.
- Follow AP's coverage of the war in Gaza at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

Here's the latest:

Israel releases 55 Palestinians it detained from Gaza

CAIRO — A Palestinian health official says Israel has released 55 Palestinians it detained from Gaza, including the director of the territory's main hospital.

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Mohammed Abu Selmia was detained in November when Israeli forces raided Shifa Hospital. The army said Hamas was using the facility for military purposes and uncovered a tunnel within the medical complex. Abu Selmia and other staff denied the allegations.

Nahedh Abu Taema, director of the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, which has also been raided by Israeli forces, says Abu Selmia was among 55 Palestinian detainees from Gaza released Monday. He says all but five were taken to Nasser Hospital for medical checks while the others were taken to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah.

Israel accuses Hamas and other militant groups of sheltering in hospitals and using them for military purposes. Palestinian health officials say Israeli raids have forced several hospitals to shut down or dramatically reduce services, recklessly endangering civilians. Hospitals can lose their protection under international law if they are used for military purposes.

In video comments aired by Palestinian media following his release, Abu Selmia accused Israeli authorities of mistreating Palestinian detainees, saying they "are subjected to daily physical and psychological humiliation."

Israeli authorities have denied such allegations.

Some 20 projectiles are lobbed at Israel from Gaza, the Israeli military says, with no casualties

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military says around 20 projectiles were fired from Gaza at communities near the border. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the barrage early Monday.

The military said some were intercepted while others fell inside southern Israel.

It says they were launched from the vicinity of the southern town of Khan Younis, and that Israeli forces are striking the sources of the fire.

Nearly nine months into Israel's massive offensive launched in response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, Palestinian militants have continued to launch sporadic rocket attacks, though the intensity has been greatly reduced.

Fighters have also regrouped in heavily damaged areas of Gaza where Israeli ground troops operated earlier in the war.

In recent days, fighting has erupted in the Shijaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City in the north, which was largely evacuated and heavily bombed early in the war. Tens of thousands of people have fled the area in recent days, according to the United Nations.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews clash with police during a protest against the Supreme Court's order to enlist

JERUSALEM — Thousands of Jewish ultra-Orthodox men clashed with Israeli police in central Jerusalem on Sunday during a protest against a Supreme Court order for them to begin enlisting for military service.

The landmark decision on June 25 ordering the government to begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men could lead to the collapse of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition as Israel wages war in Gaza.

Tens of thousands of men rallied in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood to protest the order. But after nightfall, the crowd made its way toward central Jerusalem and turned violent with protesters throwing rocks and police using skunk-scented water cannons to disperse the crowd. The demonstration was still not under control late Sunday.

Military service is compulsory for most Israelis, but politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties have won exemptions for their followers to skip military service and instead study in religious seminaries. The long-standing arrangement has bred resentment among the broader public, a sentiment that has grown stronger during Israel's war against Hamas. Over 600 soldiers have been killed in fighting, and tens of thousands of reservists have been activated, upending careers, businesses and lives.



## Ultra-Orthodox protest against order to enlist in Israeli military turns violent in Jerusalem

By OHAD ZWIGENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of Jewish ultra-Orthodox men clashed with Israeli police in central Jerusalem on Sunday during a protest against a Supreme Court order for them to begin enlisting for military service.

The landmark decision last week ordering the government to begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men could lead to the collapse of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition as Israel wages war in Gaza.

Tens of thousands of men rallied in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood to protest the order. But after nightfall, the crowd made its way toward central Jerusalem and turned violent.

Israeli police said protesters threw rocks and attacked the car of an ultra-Orthodox Cabinet minister, pelting it with stones. Water cannons filled with skunk-scented water and police mounted on horses were used to disperse the crowd. But the demonstration was still not under control late Sunday.

Military service is compulsory for most Jewish men and women in Israel. But politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties have won exemptions for their followers to skip military service and instead study in religious seminaries.

The long-standing arrangement has bred resentment among the broader public, a sentiment that has grown stronger during the eight-month war against Hamas. Over 600 soldiers have been killed in fighting, and tens of thousands of reservists have been activated, upending careers, businesses and lives.

Ultra-Orthodox parties and their followers say forcing their men to serve in the army will destroy their generations-old way of life. Earlier Sunday, thousands of men crowded a square and joined in mass prayers. Many held signs criticizing the government, with one saying "not even one male" should be drafted.

The ultra-Orthodox parties are key members of Netanyahu's governing coalition and could potentially force new elections if they decide to leave the government in protest.

Party leaders have not said whether they will leave the government. Doing so could be risky, with Netanyahu's coalition's popularity lagging since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that sparked the war.

## LGBTQ+ Pride Month culminates with parades in NYC, San Francisco and beyond

NEW YORK (AP) — The monthlong celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride reached its exuberant grand finale on Sunday, bringing rainbow-laden revelers to the streets for marquee parades in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere across the globe.

The wide-ranging festivities functioned as both jubilant parties and political protests, as participants recognize the community's gains while also calling attention to recent anti-LGBTQ+ laws, such as bans on transgender health care, passed by Republican-led states.

"We're at a time where there's a ton of legislation, anti-LGBTQ+ legislation," Zach Overton, 47, said at the New York parade. "It feels like we're taking a step backwards in the fight for equality and so it's a great moment to come out and be with our community and see all the different colors of the spectrum of our community and remind ourselves what we're all fighting for."

Thousands of people gathered along New York's Fifth Avenue to celebrate Pride. Floats cruised the street as Diane Ross' "I'm Coming Out" played from loudspeakers. Pride flags filled the horizon, and signs in support of Puerto Rico, Ukraine and Gaza were visible in the crowd.

This year, tensions over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza also seeped into the celebrations, exposing divisions within a community that is often aligned on political issues. Protesters temporarily blocked the New York parade on Sunday, chanting: "Free, free, free Palestine!" Police eventually took some of them away.

Pro-Palestinian activists disrupted pride parades earlier in June in Boston, Denver, and Philadelphia. Several groups participating in marches Sunday said they would seek to highlight the victims of the war in Gaza, spurring pushback from supporters of Israel.

"It is certainly a more active presence this year in terms of protest at Pride events," said Sandra Pérez, the executive director of NYC Pride. "But we were born out of a protest."

The first pride march was held in New York City in 1970 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Inn uprising, a riot that began with a police raid on a Manhattan gay bar.

Nick Taricco, 47, who was at the New York parade with Overton, said he attended Friday's opening of the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center, where President Joe Biden spoke. Taricco said he has concerns about politics in the U.S., including the presidential election.

"Even given how old he is, I still think that's the direction we need to go in," Taricco said of Biden. "But it's a very uncertain time in general in this country."

Ireland Fernandez-Cosgrove, 23, celebrated at the New York parade.

"New York City is a great place to live, but this is one of the only days where you can come out and be openly queer and you know you're going to be OK and safe about it," she said. "I came out here today with my partner to be able to be ourselves in public and know that other people are going to be supporting us."

In addition to the NYC Pride March, the nation's largest, the city also played host Sunday to the Queer Liberation March, an activism-centered event launched five years ago amid concerns that the more mainstream parade had become too corporate.

Another one of the world's largest Pride celebrations took place Sunday in San Francisco, with throngs of spectators lined up along Market Street.

Brian Peterson, the secretary of queer-friendly motorcycling club Homoto, rode his motorcycle along the parade route.

"This is an event where I can celebrate myself as well as my friends and make new friends, and reaffirm that I belong in this world," Peterson told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Tens of thousands of revelers packed sidewalks along Chicago's parade, a scaled-back event from previous years. City officials shortened the North Side route and the number of floats this year from 199 to about 150 over safety and logistical concerns, including to better deploy police into evening hours as post-parade parties have become more disruptive in recent years. Chicago's parade, one of the largest in the U.S., routinely draws about 1 million people, according to the city. Sunday's crowd estimates were not immediately available.

Parades also were held in Minneapolis and Seattle.

On top of concerns about protests, federal agencies had warned that foreign terrorist organizations and their supporters could target the parades and adjacent venues. Security was heavy at all of the events.

## **Economic turmoil in Bolivia fuels distrust in government and its claim of a 'failed coup'**

By MEGAN JANETSKY and PAOLA FLORES Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Signs reading "I'm buying dollars" line the doors of Víctor Vargas' shoe shop in the heart of Bolivia's biggest city, a desperate attempt to keep his family business alive.

Just a few years ago, the 45-year-old Vargas would unlock the doors at 8 a.m. to a crush of customers already waiting to buy tennis shoes imported from China. Now, his shop sits hopelessly empty.

"Right now, we're in a dreadful crisis," he said. "No one buys anything anymore. ... We don't know what's going to happen."

Bolivians like Vargas have been hit hard by economic turmoil in the small South American nation fueled by a longtime hyper-dependence on, and now shortage of, U.S. dollars.

The economic downturn has been exacerbated by an ongoing feud between President Luis Arce and his ally-turned-rival former President Evo Morales in the lead-up to next year's presidential election. Many Bolivians impacted by the crisis have lost trust in Arce, who denies the country is even in an economic crisis.

"Bolivia has an economy that's growing. An economy in crisis doesn't grow," Arce told The Associated Press in an interview. That was contradicted by both economists and dozens of Bolivians.

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That deep distrust came to a head on Wednesday following a spectacle which the government called a "failed coup d'état" and opponents including Morales called a staged "self-coup" meant to earn the unpopular leader political points before elections.

Whether the coup attempt was real or not, most Bolivians who spoke to the AP said they no longer believe what their leader says, and say Arce would be better served addressing Bolivia's gasping economy and less time carrying out political stunts.

"He should think about Bolivia's economy, make a plan to move forward, find a way to get dollars and work to move Bolivia forward," Vargas said. "No more of these childish 'self-coups.'"

That simmering anger has paved the way for even more strife in a country that is no stranger to political unrest.

Bolivia's economic crisis is rooted in a complex combination of dependence on the dollar, draining international reserves, mounting debt and failures to produce products like gas, once the Andean nation's economic boon.

This has meant that Bolivia has largely become an import economy "totally dependent on dollars," said Gonzalo Chávez, an economist with Bolivia's Catholic University. That once worked in Bolivia's favor, driving the country's "economic miracle" as it became one of the region's fastest growing economies.

Vargas' family opened the shoe business nearly 30 years ago because they saw it as a surefire way to ensure stability for coming generations. The family imports shoes from China, which they pay for in dollars and sell them in Bolivia's currency, bolivianos. Without dollars, they have no business.

The shortage of dollars has led to the emergence of a black market, with many sellers bringing in greenbacks from neighboring Peru and Chile and selling them at a gouged price.

Pascuala Quispe, 46, spent her Saturday walking around La Paz's downtown going to different currency exchange shops, desperately searching for dollars to buy car parts. While the official exchange rate is 6.97 bolivianos to the dollar, she was told the real price was 9.30 bolivianos, far too high a price for her. So she kept walking, hoping to find luck elsewhere.

Gouged prices have trickled down to everything. People have stopped buying shoes, meat and clothing, and that has pushed working class people deeper into poverty. Bolivians make jokes about having "mattress banks," storing cash at home because they don't trust banks.

"There are no jobs. ... and the money we earn isn't enough for anything," Quispe said. "Everyone suffers."

Some vendors like Vargas paste signs on their business doors, hopeful sellers will trade dollars at a more reasonable price.

It's a complicated economic bind that has few short-term solutions, said Chávez, the economist.

But Arce insists that Bolivia's economy is "one of the most stable" and says he's taking action to address problems ailing Bolivians, including shortages of dollars and gasoline. He said the government is also industrializing, investing in new economies like tourism and lithium.

While Bolivia sits on the world's biggest stores of lithium, a high-value metal key to transitioning to a green economy, investment is only viable in the long term, largely due to government failures, said Chávez. Meanwhile, inflation has outpaced economic growth, and most Bolivians face unstable work conditions with minuscule pay.

That is only compounded by ongoing fights between Arce and Morales, who returned from exile after resigning during unrest in 2019, which Morales maintains was a coup against him. Now the former allies have slung insults and fought over who will represent their Movement for Socialism party, known by its Spanish acronym MAS, ahead of 2025 elections.

"Arce and Evo Morales, they fight over who is more powerful," Vargas said. "But neither govern for Bolivia. ... There's a lot of uncertainty."

Broad discontent has fueled waves of protests and strikes in recent months. Protests and road blocks have dealt another economic blow to Vargas, the shoe vendor, because customers from all over the country no longer travel to buy products because of the chaos of ubiquitous protests.

Morales, who still wields a great deal of power in Bolivia, blocked Arce's government from passing measures in Congress to ease the economic turmoil, which Arce told the AP was a "political attack."

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Morales has fueled speculation that the military assault on the government palace last week allegedly led by former military commander José Zúñiga was a political stunt organized by Arce to gain sympathy from Bolivians. The claim was first made by Zúñiga himself upon his arrest.

"He tricked and lied to, not just the Bolivian people, but the entire world," Morales said in a Sunday radio program.

The political spats left many like 35-year-old Edwin Cruz, a truck driver, shaking their heads as they wait for hours, sometimes days, in long lines for diesel and gasoline because of intermittent shortages caused by lack of foreign currency.

"Diesel is like gold now," he said. "People aren't idiots. And with this whole thing with the 'self-coup' this government has to go."

Cruz is among those who don't want to vote for either Morales or Arce. While Bolivians have few other options, Chávez said discontent opened a "small window" for an outsider to gain traction, just as it has with a number of Latin American outsiders in recent years.

Most recently, self-described "anarcho-capitalist" Javier Milei has taken the helm of neighboring Argentina with promises to lift the country out of its economic spiral, which shares a number of similarities with Bolivia's.

Meanwhile, Vargas doesn't know what he'll do with his family's shoe store. Once a point of pride, the shop has turned into a financial drain. He would pass it down to one of his four children, but all of them want to leave Bolivia. One of his children has already migrated to China.

"They don't want to live here anymore," Vargas said in his empty store. "Here in Bolivia, there's no future."

## **Ukraine's convicts offered release at a high price: Joining the fight against Russia**

By VASILISA STEPANENKO, EVGENIY MALOLETKA and DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press  
DNIPROPETROVSK REGION, Ukraine (AP) — At a rural penal colony in southeast Ukraine, several convicts stand assembled under barbed wire to hear an army recruiter offer them a shot at parole. In return, they must join the grueling fight against Russia.

"You can put an end to this and start a new life," said the recruiter, a member of a volunteer assault battalion. "The main thing is your will, because you are going to defend the motherland. You won't succeed at 50%, you have to give 100% of yourself, even 150%."

Ukraine is expanding the draft to cope with acute battlefield shortages more than two years into fighting against Russia's full-scale invasion. And its recruiting efforts have turned, for the first time, to the country's prison population.

Although Ukraine does not announce any details of troop deployment numbers or casualties, frontline commanders openly acknowledge that they are facing serious manpower problems as Russian continues to build up forces in eastern Ukraine and make incremental gains westward.

More than 3,000 prisoners already have been released on parole and assigned to military units after such recruitment was approved by parliament in a controversial mobilization bill last month, Ukrainian Deputy Justice Minister Olena Vysotska told The Associated Press.

About 27,000 inmates could potentially be eligible for the new program, according to Justice Ministry estimates.

"A lot of the motivation comes from (inmates) wanting to return home a hero, and not to return home from prison," Vysotska said.

Ernest Volvach, 27, wants to take up the offer. He's serving a two-year sentence for robbery, at the penal colony in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region. He works in the kitchen, ladling dollops of food into tin bowls.

"It's stupid to sit here doing nothing," Volvach said, adding that since the start of the war he's wanted to "do something for Ukraine" and have the opportunity to enlist. "Now it's appeared."

Ukrainian soldiers on active duty are typically identified only by their first name, or a call sign, for security

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reasons. Many of the inmates at the Dnipropetrovsk penal colony also asked to be identified only by their first names to avoid difficulties if they enlist.

Another inmate, 30, who gave his name only as Volodymyr, makes rivets at a penal colony workshop. He said he plans to volunteer after his sentence ends in one year, but wouldn't do so now because there's effectively no home leave under the parole program.

Prisoners can get the conditional release after an interview, medical exam, and a review of their conviction. Those convicted of rape, sexual assault, murdering two or more people or crimes against Ukraine's national security aren't eligible.

Ukrainian officials are keen to draw a distinction between their program and recruitment in Russia of convicts to serve in the notorious Wagner mercenary group. Those fighters typically have been funneled to the deadliest battles, the officials say, but the Ukrainian program aims to integrate the inmates into regular Ukrainian frontline units.

The country has a prison population of some 42,000, according to figures forwarded by the government to the European Union.

While recent reforms have reduced the number of prisoners and are credited with improving conditions at some facilities, the U.S. State Department noted credible reports of "degrading treatment or punishment" by prison authorities in its annual report on human rights last year.

After screening, paroled inmates are rushed to basic training at camps where they learn how to handle weapons and other combat fundamentals. Training is completed later once they join the individual units.

Paroled inmate Mykhailo joined an assault course and said it was hard to keep up with the physical demands after months of relative inactivity in prison – clambering in and out of armed personnel carriers and running through obstacle courses.

"I decided to sign up for the Ukrainian Volunteer Army because I have a family at home, children, parents," the 29-year-old said, speaking over the noise of gunfire at a shooting range. "I will be more useful in the war."

Vysotska, the deputy justice minister, said interest in the military parole program has exceeded early expectations, and that it could provide as many as 5,000 new recruits. "That would definitely help," she said.

## In a proud and troubled UK town, voters wonder whether their election choice will make a difference

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

HARTLEPOOL, England (AP) — A lot of politicians have promised change to voters in Hartlepool, a wind-whipped port town in northeast England. For decades, Labour Party representatives said they would fight for working people, even as well-paid industrial jobs disappeared. Later, Conservatives under then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed to bring new money and opportunities on the back of Brexit.

But as British voters prepare to elect a new government Thursday, Hartlepool's many problems persist. It has higher unemployment, lower pay, shorter life expectancy, more drug deaths and higher crime rates than the country as a whole.

Opinion polls put center-left Labour well ahead of the governing Conservatives nationwide, but many voters remain undecided — and even more are jaded. To regain power after 14 years, Labour must win back disillusioned voters in Hartlepool and other northern towns where decades of economic decline have spawned health and social problems, and a deep sense of disillusionment.

"At the last election, I voted Conservative because Johnson promised our waters back — and lied through his teeth," said Stan Rennie, a fisherman who has caught lobster off Hartlepool for five decades but says he can scarcely scrape a living anymore.

"Because we're the northeast, I don't think the government even knows we exist," he said. "We're the forgotten land."

A proud, rugged town jutting into the North Sea 250 miles (400 kilometers) north of London, Hartlepool

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is scarred by industrial decline. The shipyards and steelworks that once employed thousands are long gone. The fishing fleet has been shrinking for years.

In a 2016 referendum, Hartlepool voted heavily to leave the European Union, persuaded by Johnson and other Brexit-backers that quitting the bloc would let the U.K. control immigration and free up billions in cash for struggling post-industrial areas.

Three years later, many postindustrial areas in England's Labour-supporting "Red Wall" switched allegiance and backed Johnson's Conservatives in an election. Labour hung on in Hartlepool until 2021, when the Conservatives won the seat in a special election.

In the past few years, Hartlepool has received government money to spiff up its train station, restore old buildings and revive the waterfront, but well-paid jobs have been slow in coming. In a town center pocked with empty shopfronts, retiree Sheila Wainwright had to stop and think when asked what politicians had delivered for Hartlepool.

"Improved the promenade?" she suggested. "But then you've seen all the shops shutting, like every other town.

"I don't think you can believe anybody. They all come out with this stuff, but it never happens, as far as I can see."

Jonathan Brash, Labour's election candidate, hears similar sentiments when he knocks on doors around town. He says he understands the mistrust.

"Everywhere people seem to look, they find a country that's not really working," said Brash, a local councilor who grew up in Hartlepool. "Our public health service is in real difficulties. Crime is on the rise on our streets. There aren't enough police officers. Our public realm has disintegrated over the last 14 years."

Few feel more betrayed than Hartlepool's fishing community, custodians of a trade central to the town's identity. Many fishers voted for Brexit to rid themselves of EU quotas and red tape, but say that little has changed. And a new crisis erupted in late 2021 when dead and dying shellfish started washing up along England's northeast coast.

Rennie and other fishermen suspect dredging conducted as part of redevelopment of old industrial land has churned up toxins from the nearby River Tees. It was once one of the country's most heavily industrialized areas — a center for chemicals, ships and steel — and is now the site of a huge regeneration area known as the Teesside Freeport.

Two government-commissioned reports ruled out dredging but failed to confirm the cause of the die-offs. Rennie and a group of fishing colleagues have enlisted scientists to do their own research.

"Our lifetime's work has just been destroyed," Rennie said, standing alongside the fishing boat he can no longer afford and the lobster pots that often come up empty. "It's in our blood, and they're taking that away."

Rennie can trace fishing in his family back 500 years. But, he says, "it's going to die with me."

Fishing seems fated to play a tiny part in Hartlepool's economic future, but politicians hope another aspect of its maritime heritage — shipping — will be crucial.

The town's 200-acre (81-hectare) commercial port employs far fewer people than when ships were built and coal unloaded here, but it's still a place of activity, much of it related to the fast-growing renewable energy industry. Businesses in the port make undersea coils for wind turbines and help service vehicles building the world's biggest offshore wind farm, Dogger Bank, some 80 miles (130 kilometers) from land.

"We're going to have a major role in terms of the offshore wind sector" and other emerging technologies including carbon capture and hydrogen, said Jerry Hopkinson, executive chair of operator PD Ports.

"There are some really, really big opportunities here on Teesside," he said. "Lots more cargo, lots more ships."

While Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives stress the need for Britain to keep drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea, Labour is promising to make Britain a "clean energy superpower." Brash, Labour's candidate, says that will help Hartlepool regain its place as an engine of the British economy.

"Right now, across the world we've got reindustrialization with cleaner technology," he said. "We're behind in the U.K., frankly, because of the decisions of this government. But it is coming. ... Hartlepool and

places like it have to be the absolute epicenter of that change.”

That change can seem a long way off. Whoever becomes prime minister — and polls suggest it will be Labour leader Keir Starmer — will face stagnant economic growth, high public debt and creaking public services. Independent think-tank the Institute for Fiscal Studies says neither Labour nor the Conservatives are being honest with the public about the choice the next government will face between higher taxes and worsening public services.

Opinion polls suggest Brash will beat Conservative incumbent Jill Mortimer in Hartlepool, though many voters express a lack of enthusiasm for either party. Some are tempted by veteran right-wing politician Nigel Farage, who has shaken up the campaign with his anti-immigration rhetoric and populist promises.

“He’s funny, and that’s what people relate to,” said Dylan Fisher, a care worker for people with autism. “Maybe he is the biggest liar of all. But he’s really good at talking.”

Mistrust of politicians is as common as empty shops in Hartlepool. But amid the shuttered stores, a handful of creative small businesses provide bright spots. Linda Li, who helps manage the Kraft Work Yarns knitting shop, beams as she stands amid a rainbow of yarn balls and talks warmly about the store’s customers and regular “knit and natter” sessions.

Born and raised in Hartlepool, she treasures its sense of community and says, “It’s the only town that I can feel at home in.”

She always votes — “I’ve never missed an election” — and said she will back Labour, though she isn’t confident it will deliver on its promises.

“We know what the party say they stand for, but whether or not it will happen, we don’t know,” she said. “But it’ll be nice to have a bit of a change from what we have now.”

## Street medicine teams search for homeless people to deliver lifesaving IV hydration in extreme heat

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Alfred Handley leaned back in his wheelchair alongside a major Phoenix freeway as a street medicine team helped him get rehydrated with an intravenous saline solution dripping from a bag hanging on a pole.

Cars whooshed by under the blazing 96-degree morning sun as the 59-year-old homeless man with a nearly toothless smile got the help he needed through a new program run by the nonprofit Circle the City.

“It’s a lot better than going to the hospital,” Handley said of the team that provides health care to homeless people. He’s been treated poorly at traditional clinics and hospitals, he said, more than six years after being struck by a car while he sat on a wall, leaving him in a wheelchair.

Circle the City introduced its IV rehydration program as a way to protect homeless people from life-threatening heat illness as temperatures regularly hit the triple-digits in America’s hottest metro. Homeless people accounted for nearly half of the record 645 heat-related deaths last year in Maricopa County, which encompasses metro Phoenix.

Dr. Liz Frye, vice chair of the Street Medicine Institute that provides training to hundreds of health care teams worldwide, said she didn’t know of groups other than Circle the City administering IVs on the street.

“But if that’s what needs to happen to keep somebody from dying, I’m all about it,” Frye said.

As summers grow warmer, health providers from San Diego to New York are being challenged to better protect homeless patients.

Even the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, featured in last year’s book, “Rough Sleepers,” now sees patients with mild heat exhaustion in the summer after decades of treating people with frostbite and hypothermia during the winter, said Dr. Dave Munson, the street team’s medical director.

“It’s certainly something to worry about,” said Munson, noting that temperatures in Boston hit 100 degrees with 70% humidity during June’s heat wave. Homeless people, he said, are vulnerable to very hot and very cold weather not only because they live outside, but they often can’t regulate body temperature due to medication for mental illness or high blood pressure, or because of street substance use.

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The Phoenix team searches for patients in homeless encampments in dry riverbeds, sweltering alleys and along the canals that bring water to the Phoenix area. About 15% are dehydrated enough for a saline drip.

"We go out every day and find them," said nurse practitioner Perla Puebla. "We do their wound care, medication refills for diabetes, antibiotics, high blood pressure."

Puebla's street team ran across Handley and 36-year-old Phoenix native Phillip Enriquez near an overpass in an area frequented by homeless people because it's near a facility offering free meals. Across the road was an encampment of tents and lean-tos along a chain-link fence.

Enriquez sat on a patch of dirt as Puebla started a drip for him. She also gave him a prescription for antibiotics and a referral to a dentist for his dental infection.

Living outside in Arizona's broiling sun is hard, especially for people who may be mentally ill or use sedating drugs like fentanyl that make them less aware of surroundings. Stimulants like methamphetamine contribute to dehydration, which can be fatal.

Temperatures this year have reached 115 degrees (45 Celsius) in metro Phoenix, where six heat-related deaths have been confirmed through June 22. Another 111 are under investigation.

"The number of patients with heat illnesses is increasing every year," said Dr. Aneesh Narang, assistant medical director of emergency medicine at Banner Medical Center-Phoenix, which treats many homeless people with heat stroke.

Narang's staff works frequently with Circle the City, whose core mission is providing respite care, with 100 beds for homeless people not well enough to return to the streets after a hospital stay.

Extreme heat worldwide requires a dramatic response, said physician assistant Lindsay Fox, who cares for homeless people in Albuquerque, New Mexico, through an initiative run by the University of New Mexico's School of Medicine.

Three times weekly, Fox treats infections, cleans wounds and manages chronic conditions in consultation with hospital colleagues. She said the prospect of more heat illness worries her.

Highs in Albuquerque can hit the 90s and don't fall enough for people living outside to cool off overnight, she said.

"If you're in an urban area that's primarily concrete, you're retaining heat," she said. "We're seeing heat exposure that very quickly could go to heat stroke."

Serious heat stroke is far more common in metro Phoenix, where Circle the City is now among scores of health programs for the homeless in cities like New York, San Diego and Spokane, Washington.

Circle the City, founded in 2012 by Sister Adele O'Sullivan, a physician and member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet, now has 260 employees, including 15 doctors, 13 physician assistants and 11 nurse practitioners. It annually sees 9,000 patients.

Grants, donations and other gifts account for about 20% of the funding. Most of the rest comes from insurance payments for services provided through Medicaid and Medicare.

Circle the City works with medical staff in seven Phoenix hospitals to help homeless patients get after-care when they no longer need hospitalization. It also staffs two outpatient clinics for follow-up.

"This partnership allows us to offer the best outcomes for our patients," said Craig Orsini, social work manager at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.

Often that's a few weeks in respite care or, for less acute needs, a stay in one of a handful of medical beds at the downtown shelter for things like dressing changes for wounds. Someone who needs months to heal might go to a skilled nursing facility.

While patients recover, Circle the City works to find longer-term transitional shelter such as those for people 55 and older, or in permanent housing. About 77% of respite patients are sent somewhere other than the street or an emergency shelter.

"We try to find the best fit for people," said Wendy Adams, Circle the City's community outreach supervisor.

Circle the City medical staff distributes tens of thousands of water bottles each summer and tries to educate people about hot weather dangers, said Dr. Matt Essary, who works at one of five mobile clinics that stop outside soup kitchens and other services for homeless people.



Essary said Circle the City is also considering a blood analysis tool to detect electrolyte imbalances caused by dehydration.

"You can see right away how dehydrated they have become because it's so hard to draw their blood," he said. Other possible symptoms include headache, extreme thirst, dizziness and dry mouth.

"We also see a lot of people with surface burns," Essary said of the wounds common in broiling Phoenix, where a medical emergency or intoxication can cause someone to fall on a sizzling sidewalk.

Rachel Belgrade waited outside Circle the City's retrofitted truck with her black-and-white puppy, Bo, for Essary to write a prescription for the blood pressure medicine she lost when a man stole her bicycle. She accepted two bottles of water to cool off as the morning heat rose.

"They make all of this easier," said Belgrade, a Native American from the Gila River tribe. "They don't give you a hard time."

## The Republicans who want to be Trump's VP were once harsh critics with key policy differences

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's hard to refer to someone as "Hitler" and end up in their good graces, let alone potentially become the person they choose to help lead the country.

But Ohio Sen. JD Vance's shifting position on Donald Trump over the years from onetime critic of the former president to staunch ally is a metamorphosis shared by many of Trump's potential running mates.

It's not unheard of for a running mate to move beyond past disagreements with a presidential candidate.

Joe Biden had a notably barbed exchange with Kamala Harris in 2020 when both were seeking the Democratic nomination. Biden picked her to be his vice president anyway.

But the shift is more striking for Trump's potential running mates, in some cases requiring them to abandon long-held policy positions and recant vehement criticism.

Here's a look at some of those shifts:

JD Vance

In a 2016 interview with Charlie Rose while promoting his book "Hillbilly Elegy," Vance called himself "a Never Trump guy" and said of the soon-to-be-president, "I never liked him."

He told NPR that year, "I can't stomach Trump." He wrote an op-ed for The New York Times titled: "Mr. Trump Is Unfit For Our Nation's Highest Office."

Vance said he didn't vote for Trump in 2016 and his former roommate shared images of a text message Vance sent him that year in which he called Trump "cynical" and said he could be "America's Hitler."

But by the time Vance launched his campaign for Senate in 2021, his views were closely aligned with Trump's. He met with the former president and quickly won his endorsement, gaining a crucial boost in the Republican primary.

Vance has said he "was wrong" about Trump. In an interview this month on Fox News Channel, he was asked to explain his past criticism.

"I didn't think he was going to be a good president," Vance said. "He was a great president. And it's one of the reasons why I'm working so hard to make sure he gets a second term."

Marco Rubio

Some of the Florida senator's harshest comments about Trump came as they sparred during the 2016 race. Trump started calling him "Little Marco" and mocking him. Rubio insulted Trump's makeup and the size of his hands.

Rubio also called Trump a "con artist," and "the most vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency."

This year, when ABC News played back some of Rubio's comments from 2016, he responded by saying, "It was a campaign."

He made similar comments to CNN, saying "That is like asking a boxer why they punched somebody in the face in the third round. It's because they were boxing."

Their relationship improved dramatically while Trump was in the White House. And as Trump has cam-

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paigned for the presidency a third time, Rubio has cheered his proposals.

In the Senate, Rubio had long been a prominent voice on immigration and was a key member of a group that worked on a 2013 bill that included a path to citizenship for millions of people in the country illegally. Now, Rubio says he support's Trump's plan to deploy the U.S. military to deport those in the country illegally.

Doug Burgum

The North Dakota governor ran against Trump this year, but dropped out in December and endorsed Trump before voting began.

Before that, Burgum had rejected the idea of partnering with Trump.

In an interview last July on NBC's "Meet the Press," Burgum, a businessman, was asked if he would ever do business with Trump, and responded, "I don't think so." He added, "I just think that it's important that you're judged by the company you keep."

The next month, he told CNN in an interview that he would not serve as Trump's vice president.

Burgum this year has become an enthusiastic champion of Trump and has leveraged his profile as a wealthy businessman and governor versed in energy policy to help the Republican secure millions in fundraising, especially from high-dollar donors.

Elise Stefanik

When the New York congresswoman was first elected in 2014, she was known as a moderate Republican with ties to the party's establishment.

In 2016, she initially supported Ohio Gov. John Kasich's campaign. When Trump was the party's nominee, she didn't say his name, only saying she would "support my party's nominee in the fall."

She became a more vocal supporter as the election neared but made it clear she disagreed with him at times. Those disagreements faded over the years.

Stefanik emerged as one of Trump's most outspoken defenders during his first impeachment in 2019, and it's a role she's embraced ever since. When Republicans ousted former Rep. Liz Cheney from leadership over her criticism of Trump and his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, it was Stefanik they chose to take her place.

Her loyalty to Trump stood out in 2022, as the former president's esteem within the party had deflated after he was absorbing blame for weaker-than-expected results in the midterm elections. Stefanik announced days after the election that she was endorsing Trump for president in 2024 — an announcement that came before Trump even said he was running.

Tim Scott

In 2016, the South Carolina senator initially backed Rubio in the presidential race and excoriated Trump for his reluctance to condemn the Ku Klux Klan.

"If Donald Trump can't take a stand against the KKK, we cannot trust him to stand up for America against Putin, Iran or ISIS," said Scott, the Senate's only Black Republican.

Scott still supported Trump in the 2016 election against Democrat Hillary Clinton, calling him the "lesser of two evils."

Scott also criticized Trump after his comments equivocating about the 2017 white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, saying that his "moral authority" was "compromised." He met with Trump at the White House after. In an interview on Fox News Channel on Thursday, Scott said that he shared his perspective with the then-president in that meeting and from then on they worked to "find solutions together."

"It was the Charlottesville incident that made our relationship what it is today," Scott said.

Though he ran against Trump in the 2024 GOP primary, Scott dropped out and has become one of his most enthusiastic cheerleaders.

## **Bolivian president orchestrated a 'self-coup,' political rival Evo Morales claims**

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Former President Evo Morales on Sunday accused his political ally-turned-rival President Luis Arce of deceiving Bolivians by staging a “self-coup” last week to earn political points among the electorate, marking a sharp downturn in an already fraught relationship.

Morales was initially among the country’s most powerful voices to say the approximately 200 members of the military who marched on Bolivia’s government palace alongside armored vehicles Wednesday had attempted a “coup d’état.” He called for “all those involved in this riot to be arrested and tried.”

But on Sunday, Morales joined others who contend Arce himself orchestrated the incident in an attempt to win the sympathy of Bolivians at a time when his popularity is extremely low.

Arce “disrespected the truth, deceived us, lied, not only to the Bolivian people but to the whole world,” Morales said in a local broadcast program Sunday. Morales also called for an independent investigation into the military action in a post on X.

Morales is throwing his support behind an accusation made by former Gen. Juan José Zúñiga, who allegedly led the coup attempt. Morales said Zúñiga had informed colleagues and family of his plan beforehand and while in custody had told authorities that Arce had “betrayed” him.

“The president told me: ‘The situation is very screwed up, very critical. It is necessary to prepare something to raise my popularity,’” Zúñiga quoted Arce as saying.

That theory was quickly adopted by Arce’s political enemies, who dubbed it a “self-coup.”

“At some point the truth will be known,” a handcuffed Zúñiga told reporters while being transferred to prison Saturday.

Morales’ comments were echoed later in the night by neighboring Argentina. The government of right-wing Argentine President Javier Milei declared the coup attempt “fraudulent,” citing intelligence reports and saying the way in which Wednesday progressed was “not very credible.”

It’s a major turnaround since Wednesday, when leaders across the region lined up in solidarity with Arce.

Presidential Minister María Nela Prada fired back at Morales over state television Sunday, warning him to not “become a puppet, a marionette and an instrument of imperialism that intends to plunder our country.” She said the “fascist right” wanted to “distort history.”

“What I condemn even more is that from people like Evo Morales, who claim to be leftists, there is ideological fluctuation around what are coups d’état and failed coups d’état in our country,” she said.

Morales still wields a great deal of influence in Bolivia, especially among coca growers and unions, while Arce has faced simmering discontent as the country reels from an economic crisis.

Morales, once Arce’s friend, resigned as president in 2019 amid unrest after he ran for an unconstitutional third term and fled into exile, an incident he insists was a coup.

The incident led to conservative Jeanine Áñez to briefly take over as interim president, a period plagued with controversy. Áñez is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence on accusations she illegally took over the presidency after Morales resigned.

In Bolivia’s 2020 election, Morales threw his support behind Arce to be the candidate for his Movement for Socialism, known by its Spanish acronym MAS.

But their relationship soured when Morales returned from self-exile and later announced he planned to run against Arce to be MAS’s candidate in the 2025 elections. Their fights have grown increasingly bitter as Morales’ allies have blocked much of Arce’s legislative agenda in Congress.

“We’ve been politically attacked,” Arce told The Associated Press in an interview Friday. But “we haven’t attacked” back.

The feud has angered many Bolivians, and Morales’ comments Sunday were not likely to help.

Morales said on the local radio program “Kausachun Coca” that he felt the incident damaged the image of Bolivia and its military. He also apologized for expressing solidarity with Arce.

## Millions in Nigeria have little to no electricity. It's straining businesses and public services

By TAIWO ADEBAYO Associated Press

IBADAN, Nigeria (AP) — Dimly lit and stuffy classrooms stir with life every morning as children file in. Rays of sunlight stream through wooden windows, the only source of light. Pupils squint at their books and intermittently the blackboard as teachers try to hold their attention.

It's a reality for many schoolchildren across Nigeria, where many buildings don't have access to the national electricity grid. In Excellent Moral School in Olodo Okin in Ibadan, "the entire community is not connected, including the school," said school founder Muyideen Raji. It acutely affects pupils, he said, who can't learn how to use computers or the Internet and can't study in the evenings.

About half of Nigeria's more than 200 million people are hooked up to a national electricity grid that can't provide sufficient daily electricity to most of those connected. Many poor, rural communities like Olodo Okin are off the grid entirely.

In a country with abundant sunshine, many are looking to solar energy to help fill the gaps, but getting risk-averse investors to finance major solar projects that would give Nigeria enough reliable energy is an uphill struggle. It means that millions in the country are finding ways to live with little to no electricity.

Lots of sun, few funds

Studies have shown that Nigeria could generate much more electricity than it needs from solar energy thanks to its powerful sunshine. But 14 grid-scale solar projects in the northern and central parts of the country that could generate 1,125 megawatts of electricity have stalled since contracts were signed in 2016.

Those trying to develop solar projects in the country blame interest rates for borrowing which can be as high as 15 percent, two to three times higher than in advanced economies and China, according to the International Energy Agency.

That means it's more costly for solar companies to work in Nigeria or other developing nations than in rich countries. Africa only has one-fifth the solar power capacity of Germany, and just 2% of global clean energy investments go to the continent.

"The same project put up in Nigeria and Denmark; the Danish project will get funding for 2 to 3 percent" interest rate, said Najim Animashaun, director of Nova Power, one of the stalled solar projects. Meanwhile he struggles to get loans even with interest rates of 10 percent or higher, "even though my solar project can produce two and half times more power," than a Danish one.

Nigeria also does not set so-called cost-reflective tariffs, meaning the price consumers pay for electricity doesn't cover the costs to produce and distribute it. This means distribution companies can't fully pay producers and the industry relies on government interventions to stay afloat, scaring off lenders from investing in the solar industry.

Currently, power producers say they are owed up to 3.7 trillion Naira (\$2.7 billion) by the government, making it difficult to meet obligations to their lenders and contractors.

One option would be getting World Bank guarantees that would put investors at ease and make them more willing to put money into solar projects — but the government is wary of signing up to anything that would force them to pay large sums even if electricity from the projects does not get the consumers because of inadequate transmission and distribution infrastructure.

But without World Bank guarantees "nobody will develop or finance a project with a government subsidy, because it can dry off," said Edu Okeke, the managing director of Azura Power. Azura Power has a stake in the now-stalled 100 megawatt Nova solar project in Nigeria's northern Katsina State.

Stop-gap solutions

With less than 8,000 megawatts of capacity and an average supply of less than 4,000 megawatts — less than half of what Singapore supplies to just 5.6 million people — power outages are an everyday occurrence in Nigeria.

Communities like Excellent Moral School's in Ibadan that have no access to electricity are often surrounded by more fortunate ones that are connected to the grid but experience frequent outages and have to use

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gasoline and diesel-run private generators.

With the long-running petroleum subsidies now removed, many households, schools, hospitals and businesses struggle with the cost of the fuel for their backup generators.

"We have stopped using a diesel generator as an alternative due to costs," said Abdulhakeem Adedoja, the head of Lorat Nursery and Primary School in Ibadan. He added that although the school is in an Ibadan area that is connected to the grid, they could go two weeks without a power supply.

The problem is not just the lack of electricity for computer-aided learning, proper lighting, and fans to make classes less stuffy for pupils and teachers, but also that students are unable to complete their school assignments at home, Adedoja said.

For more energy-hungry small businesses like restaurants, they either close shop or continue with alternative power generation, incurring high costs that hurt their capacity for expansion.

Ebunola Akinwale, the owner of Nature's Treat Cafe in Ibadan, said she pays 2.5 million Naira (\$1,700) monthly to power backup generators in her four branches.

"If nothing changes, I probably would have to close one or two branches," she said, though she is planning to go solar which she enthuses will help us cut "pollution from the diesel (generators)." She's in talks with her bank for a low-cost loan package specially designed for young women entrepreneurs to finance the solar alternative.

However, not every business and household has such access or can afford the upfront capital for a private solar system. School heads Raji and Adedoja said they find the costs prohibitive.

#### Finding a way forward

The stalled solar projects aren't happening as finances don't add up, but even for other sources of electricity generation, Nigeria struggles to attract desperately needed private financing.

The power minister, Adebayo Adedun, said in May that in order to address the financial crisis affecting the electricity sector, prices must reflect the true costs of service because a broke "government cannot afford to pay 3 trillion Naira (\$2.4 billion) in subsidy."

The government also insists that Nigerians paying fully for the electricity they consume would encourage investments in the sector.

There has been some pushback to that, as labor unions went on strike in early June in part to protest electricity tariff increases.

But businesspeople like Akinwale understand the government's position because regularly supplied grid electricity, even without a subsidy, is "still cheaper and cleaner" than diesel for generators, she said.

If finances for grid-scale solar projects do not add up, the government should offer incentives such as tax relief and payment plans to encourage private solar adoption, Akinwale said. "Sunlight is there abundantly," she said.

Former regulatory chief Sam Amadi doubts if consumers in Nigeria — where the minimum wage is 30,000 Naira (\$20) a month — "can today pay for energy consumed without subsidy." He also wants a policy that makes it more affordable to have smaller-scale solar projects dotted across communities, businesses and homes.

Until then, there are consequences to the frequent blackouts, he said.

"I have the story of a person who died in hospital because the electricity went out during operation," he said. "Every day, we see the real-world effects of the lack of electricity."

## Gathered at Camp David, Biden's family tells him to stay in the race and keep fighting

By COLLEEN LONG, ZEKE MILLER and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's family used a Sunday gathering at Camp David to urge him to stay in the race and keep fighting despite his dreadful debate performance, and some members criticized how his staff prepared him for the faceoff, according to four people familiar with the discussions.

Biden spent the day sequestered with first lady Jill Biden, his children and grandchildren. It was a previ-

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ously scheduled trip to the presidential retreat in Maryland for a photo shoot with Annie Leibovitz for the upcoming Democratic National Convention.

But the gathering was also an exercise in trying to figure out how to quell Democratic anxiety that has exploded following Thursday's performance.

While his family was aware of how poorly he performed against Donald Trump, they also continue to think he's the best person to beat the Republican presumptive nominee. They also believe he is capable of doing the job of president for another four years, according to the people who were not authorized to speak publicly about internal discussions and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Among the most vocal: Jill Biden and son Hunter, whom the president has long gone to for counsel and advice. Both believe the president shouldn't bow out when he's down, and believe that he can come back from what they see as one subpar performance. The family questioned how he was prepared for the debate by staff and wondered if they could have done something better, the people said.

Biden's campaign has spent the days since the debate — where he appeared raspy, trailed off, and at times gave convoluted answers — working to keep donors and surrogates on board as Democrats increasingly questioned whether he should stay in the race.

At this point in the delegate process, Biden would likely have to decide to drop out for there to be a new nominee. And the people he listens to most in the world — his wife and son — are telling him to stay in.

Even before the debate, the age of the 81-year-old Democratic president had been a liability with voters, and the prime-time faceoff appeared to reinforce the public's deep-seated concerns before perhaps the largest audience he will have in the four months until Election Day. CNN said more than 51 million people watched the debate.

While the president was huddled with his family, prominent Democrats rallied to deliver a public show of support for his campaign on Sunday.

"I do not believe that Joe Biden has a problem leading for the next four years," said one close ally, Democratic Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina. "Joe Biden should continue to run on his record."

Sen. Raphael Warnock, a Georgia Democrat and Baptist minister, said there had been "more than a few Sundays when I wish I had preached a better sermon," relating the experience to Biden's debate performance.

"But after the sermon was over, it was my job to embody the message, to show up for the people that I serve. And that's what Joe Biden has been doing his entire life," Warnock said. It was an echo of the message from other supporters that Biden had a bad debate, but a lifetime of good governance.

Warnock, like Clyburn and others, pivoted to Trump's many falsehoods during the debate — lapses that Biden and the debate moderators often failed to fact check from the stage — including about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol by Trump supporters, immigration and the outcome of the 2020 election.

"Whenever his mouth was moving, he was lying," Warnock said of Trump.

But concern simmered among some Democrats that Biden's campaign and the Democratic National Committee were not taking seriously enough the impact of the debate.

Former Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, who served for more than two decades with Biden in the Senate, called the debate "a disaster from which Biden cannot recover."

Harkin suggested that Democratic senators in pivotal races and "maybe all incumbent Democratic Senators should pen a letter to Biden asking him to release his delegates and step aside so the convention can choose a new candidate," according to an email to supporters that was obtained by The Associated Press. It was first referenced in Iowa journalist Julie Gammack's column on Saturday, Iowa Potluck.

"This is a perilous time, and is more important than the ego or desires of Joe Biden to stay as President," Harkin concluded.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., described "very honest, serious and rigorous conversations taking place at every level of our party ... about what to do."

But DNC Chairman Jaime Harrison and Biden's campaign manager, Julie Chavez Rodriguez, held a Saturday afternoon call with dozens of committee members across the country — a group of some of the most influential members of the party — where they offered a rosy assessment of the path forward and

gave no opportunity for others on the call to respond with questions.

Multiple committee members on the call, most granted anonymity to talk about the private discussion, described feeling like they were being asked to ignore a serious predicament.

"There were a number of things that could have been said in addressing the situation. But we didn't get that. We were being gaslit," said Joe Salazar, an elected DNC member from Colorado, who was on the call.

## **Zelenskyy appeals to West to relax targeting limits for Ukraine as glide bombs hammer front line**

By VASILISA STEPANENKO and EVGENIY MALOLETKA Associated Press

DONETSK REGION, Ukraine (AP) — Drone footage from Ukraine's military released Sunday has shown what appears to be bodies in a civilian area in the embattled eastern town of Toretsk, which has come under heavy Russian bombardment in recent days.

The attacks in the war-torn Donetsk region have prompted a scaled-up evacuation effort by Ukrainian rescue services. Local officials said that powerful Russian glide bombs have also been used in the town, the latest eastern front flash point as Russian attacks continue to put stretched Ukrainian front-line units on the defensive.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Russia had dropped more than 800 glide bombs in Ukraine in the past week alone.

"Ukraine needs the necessary means to destroy the carriers of these bombs, including Russian combat aircraft, wherever they are. This step is essential," he wrote in an online post.

Glide bombs are heavy Soviet-era bombs fitted with precision guidance systems and launched from aircraft flying out of range of air defenses. The bombs weigh more than a ton and blast targets to smithereens, leaving a huge crater.

Police rescuers in Toretsk helped older residents out of their homes, carrying one woman out of her bed and onto a stretcher.

"It's a terrible situation, because for three days we could not evacuate," Oksana Zharko, 48, told The Associated Press while leaving the town in a police van with family members and a cat in a plastic carrier box.

"Yesterday there was an attack and our house was destroyed — very strong, there are no walls left. Everyone is stressed, emotional, in tears. It's very scary."

Russian attacks in recent weeks have focused on the town of Chasiv Yar farther north, as Ukrainian commanders in the area say their resources remain stretched, thanks largely to a monthslong gap in military assistance from the United States.

Ukraine is still struggling to stabilize parts of its front line after desperately needed military assistance was approved by the United States in April.

Zelenskyy called on countries assisting Ukraine to further relax restrictions on using Western weapons to strike military targets inside Russia.

"Clear decisions are needed to help protect our people," he said. "Long-range strikes and modern air defense are the foundation for stopping the daily Russian terror. I thank all our partners who understand this."

Hours after Zelenskyy spoke, Ukrainian officials said Russian glide bombs had struck near a postal warehouse in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the northeast, killing an employee and injuring nine people including an 8-month-old baby.

According to a statement by Nova Poshta, the private postal and courier company that operates the site, the strike set at least seven delivery trucks ablaze, while damaging at least three others and the warehouse itself. One driver died as a result.

As many as nine people remained trapped under burning wreckage, and rescue teams were combing the site on Sunday evening, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said on Telegram.

Less than a day earlier, Russian missiles slammed into a town in southern Ukraine, killing seven civilians, including children, and wounding dozens, local authorities reported.

Ukrainian officials published photos of bodies stretched out under picnic blankets in a park in Vilniansk, and deep craters in the blackened earth next to the charred, twisted remains of a building.

At least 38 people were wounded in Saturday evening's attack, authorities said, and declared a day of mourning on Sunday. Vilniansk is in the Zaporizhzhia region, less than 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the local capital and north of the front lines, as Russian forces continue to occupy part of the province.

Russia-appointed officials in Donetsk, which is partially occupied and illegally annexed by Moscow, said that Ukrainian shelling on Sunday wounded a 4-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl. According to Russia's Emergencies Ministry, four of its staff also came under shelling Sunday as they attempted to put out a fire in the Kremlin-occupied local capital, also called Donetsk.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Sunday reported its forces overnight shot down three dozen Ukrainian drones over six regions in Russia's southwest. It later said that a total of 72 were downed on Saturday and during the night.

Debris from one drone fell on a village in the Kursk region, blowing out windows and damaging roofs and fences, according to a Telegram post by regional Gov. Aleksey Smirnov.

## French voters propel far-right National Rally to strong lead in first-round legislative elections

By JOHN LEICESTER, LORI HINNANT AND SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The far-right National Rally leaped into a strong lead Sunday in France's first round of legislative elections, polling agencies projected, bringing the party closer to being able to form a government in round two and dealing a major slap to centrist President Emmanuel Macron and his risky decision to call the surprise ballot.

When he dissolved the National Assembly on June 9, after a stinging defeat at the hands of the National Rally in French voting for the European Parliament, Macron gambled that the anti-immigration party with historical links to antisemitism wouldn't repeat that success when France's own fate was in the balance.

But it didn't work out that way. With French polling agencies projecting that the National Rally and its allies got about one-third of the national vote on Sunday, Macron's prime minister warned that France could end up with its first far-right government since World War II if voters don't come together to thwart that scenario in round two next Sunday.

"The extreme right is at the doors of power," Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said. He twice described National Rally policy pledges as "disastrous" and said that in the second-round ballot, "not one vote should go to the National Rally. France does not deserve that."

French polling agencies' projections put Macron's grouping of centrist parties a distant third in the first-round ballot, behind both the National Rally and a new left-wing coalition of parties that joined forces to keep it from winning power.

Securing a parliamentary majority would enable National Rally leader Marine Le Pen to install her 28-year-old protege, Jordan Bardella, as prime minister and would crown her yearslong rebranding effort to make her party less repellent to mainstream voters. She inherited the party, then called the National Front, from her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who has multiple convictions for racist and antisemitic hate speech.

Still, the National Rally isn't there yet. With another torrid week of campaigning to come before the decisive final voting next Sunday, the election's ultimate outcome remains uncertain.

Addressing a jubilant crowd waving French tricolor flags of blue, white and red, Le Pen called on her supporters and voters who didn't back her party in the first round to push it over the line and give it a commanding legislative majority. That scenario would force Bardella and Macron into an awkward power-sharing arrangement. Macron, first elected in 2017, has said he will not step down before his second term expires in 2027.

"The French have almost wiped out the 'Macronist' bloc," Le Pen said. The results, she added, showed voters' "willingness to turn the page after 7 years of contemptuous and corrosive power."

Early official results showed some remarkable far-right successes. Le Pen herself was one of six National



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Rally candidates that won their races outright in the Pas-de-Calais, a once heavily industrialized region of northern France, securing more than 50% of the vote in their districts on Sunday, meaning they won't face a second-round ballot. National Rally candidates were also ahead in all of the region's six other districts heading into round two.

In Le Pen's district, 54-year-old voter Magali Quere said she used to find the far right scary "but not anymore."

Only the second round will make clear whether Le Pen's party and its allies get the absolute majority they would need to comfortably form a government and then start to implement their promises to dismantle many of Macron's key policies and foreign policy platforms. That would include stopping French deliveries of long-range missiles to Ukraine in the war against Russia's full-scale invasion. The National Rally has historical ties to Russia.

The far right's more confrontational approach to the European Union, its plans to roll back Macron's pension reforms and National Rally promises to boost voters' spending power without clearly detailing how it would pay for the pledge could also spook European financial markets.

National Rally opponents fear for civil liberties if it takes power. Macron himself warned that the far right could set France on a path to civil war. Its plans to boost police powers and curb immigration also alarm many, including minorities. The National Rally has long been hostile toward France's Muslim community.

"People don't understand that this will impact us for years and years. This is a France of hate that is growing, not a France of solidarity and union," said Cynthia Fefoheio, a 19-year-old political science student who was among thousands of people who gathered Sunday night at Paris' République plaza to protest the National Rally.

Some polling agency projections indicated that in a best-case scenario for the far right, the National Rally and its allies could collectively clear the bar of 289 seats needed for a secure majority in the 577-seat National Assembly.

But it might also fall short and no single bloc may end up with a clear majority, polling agencies projected. Predictions are difficult because of the two-round voting system.

Already on Sunday night, the far-right's opponents were strategizing how to concentrate votes against the National Rally in round two, planning in some districts to pull their candidates out to increase the chances of another candidate beating a far-right rival.

The high turnout — at least 66%, according to polling estimates — reversed nearly three decades of tumbling voter interest for the first round of legislative elections in France. That so many people voted, especially as many are preparing to start or have already started traditional summer vacations, showed how the quick campaign and its high stakes galvanized the electorate. Many voters saw an opportunity to impose a government on Macron, to reprimand his presidency and force a change in course.

Many voters are frustrated with inflation and other economic concerns, as well as with Macron. The National Rally tapped that discontent, notably via online platforms such as TikTok. It campaigned heavily on the rising cost of living and immigration. The campaign was marred by rising hate speech.

"People don't like what has been happening," said Cynthia Justine, 44. "People feel they've lost a lot in recent years. People are angry. I am angry."

"Because I am a Black woman, it's even more important. A lot is at stake on this day," she added.

The National Rally has questioned the right to citizenship for people born in France, and it wants to curtail the rights of French citizens with dual nationality. Critics say that undermines human rights and is a threat to France's democratic ideals.

At the election celebration in Le Pen's stronghold of Henin-Beaumont, 41-year-old Edouard Guillebot said the far right's success had been a long time coming.

"This is a revenge of the people against the elites, in the media and politics," he said. "I am of those who have voted for everyone. They lied to us by telling us immigration was a chance for the country."

## US wants Boeing to plead guilty to fraud over fatal crashes, lawyers say

By DAVID KOENIG Associated Press

The U.S. Justice Department is pushing Boeing to plead guilty to criminal fraud in connection with two deadly plane crashes involving its 737 Max jetliners, according to several people who heard federal prosecutors detail a proposed offer Sunday.

Boeing will have until the end of the coming week to accept or reject the offer, which includes the giant aerospace company agreeing to an independent monitor who would oversee its compliance with anti-fraud laws, they said.

The case stems from the department's determination that Boeing violated an agreement that was intended to resolve a 2021 charge of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government. Prosecutors alleged at the time that Boeing misled regulators who approved the 737 Max and set pilot-training requirements to fly the plane. The company blamed two relatively low-level employees for the fraud.

The Justice Department told relatives of some of the 346 people who died in the 2018 and 2019 crashes about the plea offer during a video meeting. The family members, who want Boeing to face a criminal trial and to pay a \$24.8 billion fine, reacted angrily. One said prosecutors were gaslighting the families; another shouted at them for several minutes when given a chance to speak.

"We are upset. They should just prosecute," said Massachusetts resident Nadia Milleron, whose 24-year-old daughter, Samya Stumo, died in the second of two 737 Max crashes. "This is just a reworking of letting Boeing off the hook."

Prosecutors told the families that if Boeing rejects the plea offer, the Justice Department would seek a trial in the matter, meeting participants said. Justice Department officials presented the offer to Boeing during a meeting later Sunday, according to a person familiar with the situation.

Boeing and the Justice Department declined to comment.

The plea deal would take away the ability of U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor to increase Boeing's sentence for a conviction, and some of the families plan to ask the Texas judge to reject the deal if Boeing agrees to it.

"The underlying outrageous piece of this deal is that it doesn't acknowledge that Boeing's crime killed 346 people," said Paul Cassell, one of the lawyers for victims' families. "Boeing is not going to be held accountable for that, and they are not going to admit that that happened."

Sanjiv Singh, a lawyer for 16 families who lost relatives in the October 2018 Lion Air crash off Indonesia, called the plea offer "extremely disappointing." The terms, he said, "read to me like a sweetheart deal."

Another lawyer representing families who are suing Boeing, Mark Lindquist, said he asked the head of the Justice Department's fraud section, Glenn Leon, whether the department would add additional charges if Boeing turns down the plea deal. "He wouldn't commit one way or another," Lindquist said.

The meeting with crash victims' families came weeks after prosecutors told O'Connor that the American aerospace giant breached the January 2021 deal that had protected Boeing from criminal prosecution in connection with the crashes. The second one took place in Ethiopia less than five months after the one in Indonesia.

A conviction could jeopardize Boeing's status as a federal contractor, according to some legal experts. The company has large contracts with the Pentagon and NASA.

However, federal agencies can give waivers to companies that are convicted of felonies to keep them eligible for government contracts. Lawyers for the crash victims' families expect that would be done for Boeing.

Boeing paid a \$244 million fine as part of the 2021 settlement of the original fraud charge. The Justice Department is likely to seek another, similar penalty as part of the new plea offer, said a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing case.

The deal would include a monitor to oversee Boeing — but the company would put forward three nominees and have the Justice Department pick one, or ask Boeing for additional names. That provision was

particularly hated by the family members on the call, participants said.

The Justice Department also gave no indication of moving to prosecute any current or former Boeing executives, another long-sought demand of the families.

Lindquist, a former prosecutor, said officials made clear during an earlier meeting that individuals – even CEOs – can be more sympathetic defendants than corporations. The officials pointed to the 2022 acquittal on fraud charges of Boeing’s chief technical pilot for the Max as an example.

It is unclear what impact a plea deal might have on other investigations into Boeing, including those following the blowout of a panel called a door plug from the side of a Boeing Max 9 during an Alaska Airlines flight in January.

## **How will Louisiana’s new Ten Commandments classroom requirement be funded and enforced?**

By SARA CLINE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Even as a legal challenge is already underway over a new Louisiana law requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in classrooms, the details of how the mandate will be implemented and enforced remain murky.

Across the country there have been conservative pushes to incorporate religion into classrooms, from Florida legislation allowing school districts to have volunteer chaplains to counsel students to Oklahoma’s top education official ordering public schools to incorporate the Bible into lessons.

In Louisiana, the logistics for the new law are still unclear.

Unless a court halts the legislation, schools have just over five months until they will be required to have a poster-sized display of the Ten Commandments in all public school K-12 and state-funded university classrooms. But it’s unclear whether the new law has any teeth to enforce the requirement and penalize those who refuse to comply.

Supporters of the law say donations will pay for the thousands of posters needed, while critics argue the law is an unfunded mandate that could burden schools. And teachers in some schools have said they likely won’t hang the posters, including in the blue city of New Orleans, where residents and officials have a history of resisting conservative policies.

**Funding the requirement**

Louisiana has more than 1,300 public schools. Louisiana State University has nearly 1,000 classrooms at the main Baton Rouge campus alone and seven other campuses statewide. That means thousands of posters will be needed to satisfy the new law.

The Louisiana Department of Education is required by the new law to identify and post on its website resources that can provide the posters free of charge.

Lawmakers backing the bill said during debate in May that the posters or funds to print them will likely be donated to schools in this deep Bible Belt state. Nationwide praise for the law from conservative groups and figures including, most recently, former President Donald Trump, could result in outside financial support for the mandate.

Louisiana Family Forum, a Christian conservative organization, has already created a page on its website for donations that “will be used specifically for the purpose of producing and distributing ‘10 Commandments’ displays to educational institutions around Louisiana.”

But the question of what happens if a school doesn’t receive enough donations has lingered for months with little clarity.

“So schools have the ability to raise the funds or they (the posters) can be donated. But, what if you can’t raise the funds or find a donor?” state Sen. Royce Duplessis, a Democrat who voted against the law, asked during debate on the legislation last month.

“I don’t know what happens then,” replied state Sen. Adam Bass, a Republican who co-authored the law.

The Associated Press reached out to multiple co-authors of the bill, including Bass and the offices of Attorney General Liz Murrill, Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley and the state’s

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Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, but did not receive answers to questions about funding. Lawmakers supporting the bill were adamant during debate that the law is clear in saying donations would be used to obtain the posters. Others suggest the law's language may still allow for the purchase of displays through public funds.

"Louisiana's law does not appear to prohibit the use of public funds to pay for the Ten Commandments displays. Such use of taxpayer money would only exacerbate this egregious constitutional violation," said Rachel Laser, president and CEO at Americans United for Separation of Church and State, who opposes the law.

The law says it "shall not require" a public school governing authority to spend its funds to purchase displays. Instead, "to fund the displays free of charge, the school public governing authority shall" either accept donated funds to purchase the displays or accept donated displays.

Even with sufficient donations, opponents say the state is still spending money and resources to defend a lawsuit over a requirement that they argue is unconstitutional.

But supporters say it is a battle they are willing to fight.

Enforcement of the new law

Louisiana's 2020 teacher of the year, Chris Dier, said he doesn't intend to post the Ten Commandments in his classroom.

"I don't believe in doing something that is unconstitutional and harmful to students," said Dier, who teaches at a New Orleans high school.

It's unclear whether failure to comply will result in punishment as the language in the law does not list any repercussions. While the law specifies that Louisiana's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopt "rules and regulations" to ensure the "proper implementation" of the mandate, enforcement could fall to parish school boards or local school districts.

A similar law passed last year mandates "In God We Trust" be displayed in classrooms. The enforcement and penalties for noncompliance with that law are determined by local education agencies, said Kevin Calbert a spokesperson for the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The AP emailed 55 members of parish school boards across the state, including rural and urban parishes in Republican-dominated and Democratic-leaning areas, to ask if they support the law and how they plan to enforce it. Two replied, saying they support the mandate.

Carlos Luis Zervigon, vice president of the Orleans Parish School Board, thought differently, describing it as "blatantly unconstitutional."

"I've heard no talk or interest in considering enforcing this," the former history teacher said. "What would be my instinct, is to do nothing, unless forced to do so."

With schools out and many school boards meeting less frequently in the summer, Zervigon said his board hasn't yet talked about the requirement. However, if tasked with figuring out the implementation and enforcement of the mandate, he is likely to take a "wait-and-see attitude" until the court rules.

"I could see myself crafting a resolution that could say something to the effect of, 'We will not enforce it until we get legal clarity of whether this is constitutional or not,'" he said.

However, if New Orleans takes the lead, Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry "may exercise retribution," Zervigon said.

Landry, a Republican, attempted to punish New Orleans in the past after city officials expressed opposition to enforcement of Louisiana's near-total abortion ban.

## Israeli airstrike in the northern West Bank kills a Palestinian militant and wounds 5 other people

By MAJDI MOHAMMED and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

NUR SHAMS REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops carried out an airstrike in the northern West Bank on Sunday, killing a Palestinian militant and wounding five other people, Palestinian health officials said.

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The strike took place in Nur Shams, an urban refugee camp that has been a frequent target of the Israeli military and is known as a stronghold of Palestinian militants. The state-run Palestinian news agency Wafa said an Israeli drone fired three missiles and struck a house.

Islamic Jihad identified the dead man as Saeed al-Jaber, one of its local commanders. Wafa said he had escaped a previous drone strike on June 20. There were no details on the identities of the wounded. Health officials said two were in critical condition.

The Israeli military confirmed an attack on the home, saying that militants inside, including al-Jaber, were responsible for recent attacks on Israeli targets.

The occupied West Bank has experienced a surge in violence since the war in Gaza erupted in October. The Palestinian Health Ministry says over 500 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank since the start of the war. Most have been killed during Israeli raids and violent protests. The dead also include bystanders and Palestinians killed in attacks by Jewish settlers.

Israel launched an aerial and ground offensive in Gaza in response to the Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage. More than 37,800 Palestinians have been killed in the offensive, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its toll.

Israeli forces have been battling Palestinian militants in an eastern part of Gaza City, Shijaiyah, in recent days. Israel returned to the neighborhood last week, months after saying it had completed operations in the area.

Hamas has repeatedly regrouped in hard-hit areas after Israeli troops pulled out, raising questions about Israel's commitment to destroying the militant group's military capabilities.

The latest operation has sent thousands of residents fleeing. The army said Sunday it has killed dozens of militants in "close-quarters combat" and airstrikes, and confiscated weapons from a hideout it said Hamas had kept in a United Nations-supported school.

Palestinians also continued to flee the area in and around Rafah, the southern Gaza city where Israel says it is in the final stages of an offensive. More than 1.3 million Palestinians have fled Rafah since Israel's incursion into the city in early May.

But with few safe places to go, tens of thousands of people have stayed behind, mostly in outlying areas previously thought to be safe. Large groups of people fled with tents, mattresses and clothes piled on trucks or donkey-pulled carts. Many walked on foot as they searched for shelter. Even places thought to be safe suffer from overcrowding and poor health conditions.

For many Palestinians in the war-torn enclave, it was not their first displacement. They say the experience doesn't get any easier.

"This is the fourth time going from place to place where they (the Israeli military) tells us is a safe area but turns out it isn't," Mohammad Hajjaj told The Associated Press. He was first displaced from Shijaiyah in the early weeks of the war.

Hajjaj said that two days ago, he and his family woke to the sound of Israeli tank fire nearby before leaving. "We slept on the streets," he said.

The fleeing Palestinians found space on a plot of land in nearby Khan Younis and began setting up their tents alongside dozens of others on the sandy lot.

"We came to Khan Younis from Muwasi," said Mervette Shamlakh, referring to the Israeli-designated coastal "humanitarian zone" that has little basic services. "It's the same thing again and we had to flee ... we have no idea where we are supposed to go."

In Muwasi, scores of men, women and children stood in line for hours as they crowded around trucks and water tanks in the scorching heat to collect their share of drinking and potable water. People said water had always been scarce in the sandy area, even before the displaced Palestinians arrived.

"I'm filling a bottle just like this, to have a liter of drinking water for 16 people who live with me at home," Issam Al Dayah told the AP as he waited his turn.

"We suffer from everything. Not just water," said Mai Al Rae after struggling to get through the crowd to fill a bucket. "How long is life going to be like this?"

The fighting has threatened to spread to Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where Israeli forces have been trading fire with Hezbollah militants in daily clashes.

The Israeli military said an explosive drone launched by Hezbollah crashed into the Golan Heights on Sunday, severely wounding a soldier and lightly hurting 17 others. It said Israeli warplanes and artillery units responded by striking Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon.

## Canada airline WestJet cancels more than 400 flights after a surprise strike by mechanics union

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's second largest airline, WestJet, said it canceled 407 flights affecting 49,000 passengers after the maintenance workers union announced it went on strike.

The Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association said its members started to strike Friday evening because the airline's "unwillingness to negotiate with the union" made it inevitable.

The surprise strike affecting international and domestic flights came after the federal government issued a ministerial order for binding arbitration on Thursday. That followed two weeks of turbulent discussions with the union on a new deal.

WestJet said it will continue to park aircraft through Sunday for the long weekend culminating in Canada Day on Monday. The airline has about 200 aircraft and says they'll operate approximately 30 by Sunday evening.

The airline's CEO, Alexis von Hoensbroech, put the blame for the situation squarely on what he said was a "rogue union from the U.S." that was trying to make inroads in Canada.

Von Hoensbroech said that, as far as the airline was concerned, bargaining with the union had come to an end once the government directed the dispute to binding arbitration.

"This makes a strike totally absurd because the reason you actually do a strike is because you need to exercise pressure on the bargaining table," he said. "If there is no bargaining table it makes no sense, there shouldn't be a strike."

He added the union had rejected a contract offer that would have made the airline's mechanics the "best-paid in the country."

In an update to its membership, the union negotiating committee referenced an order by the Canada Industrial Relations Board that does not explicitly bar any strikes or lockouts as the tribunal undertakes arbitration.

Sean McVeigh, a WestJet aircraft maintenance engineer picketing Saturday at Toronto Pearson International Airport Terminal 3, said the strike is an attempt to force the airline to return to a "respectful negotiation."

McVeigh said the union regrets any inconvenience caused to passengers.

"However, the reason they (passengers) have possibly missed a flight or had to cancel is due to the reason that WestJet is not respectfully sitting down at the table and negotiating," he said alongside roughly 20 others on the picket line.

"We take on a lot of responsibility and we would just like to be appreciated financially," he said.

At Pearson, WestJet passengers Samin Sahan and Samee Jan said they had been planning to leave Saturday with extended family members on a trip to Calgary that had been planned for six to eight months.

Sahan said they had received emails earlier in the day telling them their flight had been rescheduled for Monday, but they went to the terminal anyway. He said their efforts to seek clarification combined with the strike had left their travel plans up in the air.

"This inaction is hurting a lot of people, their own company as well as their customers who will likely no longer be their customers ever again," Sahan said.

Jan called the situation "sad."

## Summer hours are a perk small businesses can offer to workers to boost morale

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With summer having gotten off to a scorching start, workers across the country may be dreaming of a seaside escape or cutting out early to watch a movie in an air-conditioned theater.

For some, that can be a reality. Business owners have found that offering summer hours — a reduced schedule on Fridays, usually between Memorial Day and Labor Day — can be a way to boost employee morale. Workers are able to deal with summer childcare gaps, return to the office refreshed and feel like their job values them, owners say.

Reduced hours in the summer months can also enable smaller businesses to stand out to prospective employees in a competitive talent marketplace.

“When smaller employers have less resources and they want to be more competitive with attracting and retaining quality talent, they want to be creative with the benefits that they offer. And one of the benefits they can offer would be flexible time in the summer,” said Rue Dooley, a knowledge advisor at the Society for Human Resources Management.

Special summer schedules don’t work for all types of industries, however. And it takes some trial-and-error to figure out the best option for each company.

Michael Wieder, co-founder of Lalo, which makes baby and toddler products, thought summer hours were a good fit for his 32 employees because so many of them — about 75% -- are parents.

His staffers work remotely and are spread across the U.S. and several other countries. Since founding the company in 2019, he tried various summer hour schemes, such as offering every other Friday off, but the current system works the best, he said. On Fridays, the business closes at 1 p.m. local time. Staffers also get four-day weekends for Memorial Day, Labor Day and July 4th.

“We know that childcare is harder during the summer,” he said. “Summer is a time where people do like to take time with their family or take trips, and we want to be able to reward our employees with some additional time with their families.”

Greg Hakim, owner of Corporate Ink in Boston, which offers PR services to emerging tech companies, said he uses summer hours as both a recruitment and retention tool. He plays up summer hours in job descriptions and said the perk has helped him retain staff — particularly during the pandemic when others found it hard to keep workers.

“It’s just helped us retain our team during the ‘Great Resignation,’ people are just like losing people left and right,” he said. “And I think we went 23 months without having someone resign. And that’s just such an important benefit and competitive advantage.”

Jim Christy co-owns Midwest Cards, a trading card retailer based in Columbus, Ohio, with about 30 employees. He started offering summer hours — Fridays off after 2 p.m. -- in 2021, a year after founding the company, as the pandemic upended normal ways of working.

The hardest part was figuring out what to offer people who worked in his brick-and-mortar shop, who also fill online orders, since they had to work normal hours to keep the store running. He decided to give logistics-side workers Friday afternoons off while the six staff who work on the brick-and-mortar side and do customer service for online orders get off on Mondays, when the store was closed. Some workers can sign on remotely to answer customer queries if they want to, but it is not required.

“We couldn’t just apply one situation to everybody. So that that was a little challenging,” he said.

For some companies, summer hours work so well they’ve gone even further. Chris Langer, co-founder of digital marketing agency CMYK, has 14 staffers who all usually work in the company’s studio.

In 2014, rather than offer Friday afternoons off, he started offering entire Fridays off during the summer — every other week. Then, last year, Langer started hearing chatter about the four-day work week, so he decided to try that out during the summer.

Communicating with the company’s tight knit staff, who have all worked together for years, makes the

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four-day week doable, Langer said.

"We're small, so, it's easy to have a discussion with everybody on like what's real and how everyone's feeling, if they're feeling stressed out, can they get their work done," he said.

If a big project is due, he might call people in on a Friday, but so far, that has only happened twice since CMYK instituted the four-day week.

"It is more stressful in terms of getting the work done throughout the week, but the day (off) was much more of a payoff," he said.

Of course, summer hours don't work for every company. Retail stores risk losing customers to big box stores or others that are open for more hours. And employees that are paid by the hour rather than set salaries can balk at getting paid for fewer hours.

Jennifer Johnson, owner of True Fashionistas, a consignment shop in Naples, Florida, thought she would try summer hours in 2022 because Naples is seasonal, with the busiest part of the year wrapping up around Easter. Beginning May 1, she changed her open hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. But the change didn't work.

"We have a staff of 45 to 50 employees, and it cut their hours and that upset them, and rightfully so," she said. "It also upset our customers who were used to our hours and wanted to shop."

She abandoned the effort after two months and hasn't tried again.

"I really believe that with anything consistency is the key," she said. "The customers need to know they can rely on you to be open, you cannot always be changing your hours because that is a quick way to lose customers."

## Today in History: July 1, Dominion of Canada is formed

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 1, the 183rd day of 2024. There are 183 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect. Called Dominion Day until 1982, the national holiday is now known as Canada Day.

Also on this date:

In 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1903, the first Tour de France began. (It ended on July 19; the winner was Maurice Garin.)

In 1944, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1984, the first movie rated PG-13 ("Red Dawn," starring Patrick Swayze) debuted.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony.

In 2004, actor Marlon Brando died in Los Angeles at age 80.

In 2015, after more than a half-century of hostility, the United States and Cuba declared they would re-open embassies in each other's capitals, marking a historic full restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes.

In 2018, LeBron James announced that he would be signing with the Los Angeles Lakers, leaving Cleveland for the second time in his career.

In 2019, 15-year-old Coco Gauff, the youngest player to qualify at Wimbledon in the professional era, defeated 39-year-old Venus Williams in the first round.



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Today's Birthdays: Actor-dancer Leslie Caron is 93. Actor Jamie Farr (TV: "M(asterisk)A(asterisk)S(asterisk)H") is 90. Cookiemaker Wally Amos is 88. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 83. Actor Genevieve Bujold is 82. Rock singer Deborah Harry (Blondie) is 79. Actor Terrence Mann is 73. Rock singer Fred Schneider (The B-52s) is 73. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 73. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 72. Actor Alan Ruck is 68. Mystery novelist Louise Penny is 66. Singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 64. Olympic track champion Carl Lewis is 63. Actor Dominic Keating (TV: "Star Trek: Enterprise") is 61. Actor Pamela Anderson is 57. Actor Henry Simmons is 54. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 53. Actor Julianne Nicholson is 53. Singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens is 49. Actor Liv Tyler is 47. Hockey Hall of Famer Jarome Iginla is 47. Actor Hilarie Burton is 42. Actor Lea Seydoux (LEE'uh say-DOO') is 39. Actor-singer Chloe Bailey is 26. Actor Storm Reid is 20.

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## July Community Calendar

Work in Progress

Please let Paul know today if you need to add an event (Text: 605-397-7460, or email: news@grotonsd.net)

Monday: July 1

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, cucumber salad baked beans, sherbet, fruit.

Pantry Open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jr. Legion at Aberdeen Smitty's, 4 p.m. (DH)

Jr. Teeners at Webster, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U12 W/R Baseball hosts Watertown, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U10 B/W hosts Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball Gold at Claremont, 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 2

Senior Menu: Chicken cordon bleu hot dish, cauliflower/broccoli, pears, whole wheat bread.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Legion hosts Watertown, 5 p.m. (DH)

U12 R/B at Aberdeen 11/12, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U8 R hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball black hosts Andover, 6 p.m.; Gold practice at 5 p.m.

United Methodist: No Bible Study

Wednesday, July 3

Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuit, Waldorf salad, cookie.

Groton Chamber Meeting Noon

Jr. Teeners hosts Aberdeen Smitty's B, 5 p.m. (DH)

Thursday, July 4

Firecracker Couples Golf Tournament, Olive Grove Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Friday, July 5

Senior Menu: Chicken strips, tri-tators, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Saturday, July 6

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

Special Needs Swim, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.

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Monday, July 8

U12 hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (DH)

U10 W/R at Watertown, 6 p.m. (DH)

U8 R hosts Columbia 6 p.m. (1)

T-Ball Black hosts Columbia, 5 p.m.; Gold practice, 6 p.m. on Soccer Complex

Softball at Oakes: U8 at 5 p.m. (1), U10B at 6 p.m. (2)

Jr. Teeners hosts Clark, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9

U8 R/B hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (4 games)

Softball at Britton: U8 at 6 p.m. (1), U10G at 6 p.m.m (1)

Jr. Legion at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Jr. Teeners at Miller, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Free SNAP application assistance at Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

Wednesday, July 10

U10 R/B at Milbank, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball Black hosts Claremont, 6 p.m.

Jr. Legion hosts Aberdeen Smitty's 16U, 4 p.m. (DH)

Emmanuel Lutheran: Circles meet, 6 p.m. potluck with joint Bible Study

Thursday July 11

Softball at Webster: U8 at 5:30 p.m. (1); U10G at 6:30 p.m. (DH), U12 at 6:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball U14 at Miller, 6:30 p.m. (DH)

Legion at Clark Rotary Tournament

Story Time at Wage Memorial Library 10 a.m.

Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m. 104 N Main

Saturday, July 13

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, July 14

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 .m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; and at Zion, 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.

Summer Fest/Car Show at City Pari, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, July 15

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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Tuesday, July 16:

T-Ball B/G Scrimmage, 6 p.m.

Softball at Mellette: U10B at 6 p.m. (DH), U12 at 7:30 p.m. (DH)

Legion at Redfield, 5:30 p.m. (1)

Jr. Legion at Redfield 7:30 p.m. (1)

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Common Centers Community Thrift Store open, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 16

Legion at Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17

Pro-Am Tourney at Olive Grove

Legion Auxiliary Salad. Buffet and Dessert Bar, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. American Legion

Thursday, July 18

Legion hosts Clark, 5:30 p.m. (1)

Jr. Legion hosts Clark, 7:30 p.m. (1)

Story Time at Wage Memorial Library 10 a.m.

Friday, July 19

Jr. Legion hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

July 12-14: U12 State Tourney at Salem

Saturday, July 20

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, July 21

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, July 22

Softball hosts Warner: U8 at 5:30 p.m. (1), U10B at 6:30 p.m. (DH), U12 at 6:30 p.m. (DH)

Jr. Legion hosts Selby, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at Noon.

Tuesday, July 23

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Wednesday, July 24

Groton Golf Association Fundraiser, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Olive Grove

Thursday, July 25

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA (bring a guest, light supper and guest speaker: Kristi Anderson)

Story Time at Wage Memorial Library 10 a.m.

Summer Downtown Sip & Shop, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Treasures Amidst the Trials, Emmanuel Lutheran, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, July 26

Ferney Open Golf Tourney, 9 a.m., Olive Grove Golf Course

Saturday, July 27

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Celebration in the Park, 1 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 28

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; and at Zion, 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, July 29

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Pantry Open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Tuesday, July 30

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

July 23-27: Legion Regions at Clark

Saturday, July 27

State Softball Tournament in Watertown (U10B, U12)

July 26-28: State Teener Tournament at Garretson